

# Patient Partners FAQ

## **What do Patient Partners do?**

Patient partners in the Centre for Studies in Family Medicine (CSFM) Patient Partner program are asked to participate in monthly **online** meetings of our “Brown Bag Seminar”. Each month’s seminar features a presentation about CSFM research and a question and answer period. These seminars help patient partners, as well as researchers at the CSFM and trainees, learn about ongoing research projects.

As researchers develop new projects, patient partners will also be asked to join the research team to help shape and carry out the project. By involving patient partners in research, we hope that the projects will incorporate patients’ priorities and perspectives. Patient partners can choose which project teams they would like to join.

We ask all patient partners to attend the Brown Bag Seminar series. However, not all patient partners will be involved in a research project over the course of a year. Joining a team is a completely voluntary add on component.

## **When does the Brown Bag Seminar take place?**

The Brown Bag Seminar generally takes place at noon, on the third Wednesday of each month from October to June. The September Brown Bag seminar takes place on the second Wednesday of the month.

## **How do you select patient partners?**

We interview applicants. We look for individuals who represent a wide variety of personal characteristics to become a patient partner.

## **Are there in-person activities?**

There are no planned in-person activities. Individual research teams may plan in-person events in consultation with team members.

## **Who is eligible to be a patient partner?**

Patient partners must be 18 years and older, reside in the Ontario Health West Region (see map), be able to converse in English, and be available for meetings during the work-day. Current faculty, staff and trainees of the Department of Family Medicine, and practicing family physicians are not eligible for the program.

## **How do I apply to become a patient partner?**

To get involved, sign up online at [https://uwo.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_9vNx92vF2GNxLUO](https://uwo.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9vNx92vF2GNxLUO) and fill out the form. You can also call 519-661-2111 x22012 for more information. You will be contacted by a Centre for Studies in Family Medicine staff to follow-up and provide information on orientation details.

**Can I sign up if I do not have email?**

Unfortunately, an email address is required for communication and sending and receiving information about the program.

**What is the time commitment if I sign-up as a patient partner?**

We ask you to attend the monthly seminar series and complete an orientation. The orientation is 1-hour and each seminar is 1-hour. Patient partners can choose to join research teams as opportunities become available. The time commitment as a member of a research team will vary by project. We will ask patient partners to sign up for the program for a year at a time.

**Are students eligible to become patient partners?**

Yes, students 18 years of age or older may apply to become patient partners. Any students should be focussed on providing input based on their experience as a patient/community member, not as a student.

**Do I get paid as a patient partner?**

Yes, patient partners will receive an honorarium for attending the monthly seminars and becoming part of research teams.

**Is there a guarantee that I'll get to volunteer for opportunities that focus on an issue or cause important to me?**

There is no guarantee of patient partner opportunities beyond the initial CSFM webinar series. As projects are developed, patient partners will be invited to join research teams.

**Are patient partners required to complete criminal records check prior to volunteering?**

This is not required for the CSFM webinar series patient partner opportunity.