

<p>I. What is an advisory panel and how can consumers participate?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) When we use research evidence in the implementation of clinical care, we refer to this as “research implementation” 2) A multidisciplinary advisory panel typically comprises clinicians and at least one consumer representative 3) Consumers, especially those of underrepresented populations in healthcare, can be influential change makers by getting involved in research implementation practices 4) Incorporation of the patient perspective in research implementation can lead to inclusion of new questions, recommendations, and outcomes that would have otherwise gone unaddressed
<p>II. Knowledge</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Consumers United for Evidence-based Healthcare (CUE) provides educational resources for consumers, patients and others on its website, including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) <i>The Cochrane Library</i> b) <i>CUE’s online course on Understanding Evidence-based Healthcare (EBHC)</i> 2) Understanding the evidence will allow consumers to separate “good” evidence from “bad” evidence 3) Consumers have the unique advantage of being able to meld experience with knowledge about research evidence 4) Citing evidence-based studies can add help to justify experiential knowledge
<p>III. Engaging with other panel members</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) When sitting on a panel, ask for clarification if something is unclear or if you are confused 2) Progress on advisory panels is a slow process. Try to discern whether your contributions are making a difference slowly or whether your contributions are not being acknowledged at all. 3) Overcome feelings of intimidation by: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Remembering that your experience is unique and therefore important to other panel members b) Building relationships with other panel members by speaking to them one-on-one during breaks or networking time
<p>IV. Communicating effectively on an advisory panel</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Ask to introduce yourself at the start of the first panel meeting <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Present your area of expertise b. Give rationale for why you are participating in the panel c. Describe your goals for the advisory panel 2) Prior to the start of the advisory panel, ask your constituency what is important to them 3) Remind the panel members that you are only one person and don’t necessarily represent all consumer perspectives 4) If you feel you are not being heard on the panel, talk to the other members, especially the chair, about your concerns 5) Be a team player; involve other panel members in relevant communications and get their sign on as much as possible 6) Talk to other panel members about their values and identify shared goals/values 7) Consider all member contributions with equal weight (yours included!)