



# WHICH ETHICAL ISSUES ARE ENCOUNTERED IN PATIENT ENGAGEMENT?

Patient engagement in organizational governance, research, and quality improvement is becoming more common. We wrote this article based on our own experiences of being involved in such initiatives as patient, clinician, or researcher. We highlight ethical issues encountered and offer recommendations to address them.

**Reference:** Montreuil, M., Martineau, J., & Racine, E. (2019). Exploring ethical issues related to patient engagement in healthcare: Patient, clinician and researcher's perspectives. *Journal of Bioethical Inquiry*, 16(2), 237-248. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11673-019-09904-6>.

## WHO SHOULD READ THIS?

Patient-partners, healthcare providers, managers, and researchers who are already working on, or seek to work on, patient engagement initiatives.



## WHAT IS IT ABOUT?

We share our perspectives and experiences on certain ethical issues we have encountered in patient engagement. We present issues that cut across organizational design/governance, healthcare quality improvement and research, with examples for each. We also offer concrete recommendations.

## WHAT DID THE RESEARCHERS DO?

We engaged in an open discussion about the ethical aspects of patient engagement. We identified main areas of concern, shared examples, and discussed potential ways to address these issues with support from the scientific literature.



## WHAT DID THE RESEARCHERS FIND?

- Three main categories of ethical concerns and issues:
1. Shared vision: Issues/concerns related to establishing a shared vision about goals of patient engagement and respective roles.
  2. Practical aspects: Issues/concerns related to practical aspects of patient engagement.
  3. Process and method: Issues/concerns related to doing/carrying forth patient engagement.

## WHAT NOW?

We are building on this work to develop approaches that lead to meaningful patient engagement with different populations. We also continue to study the process and outcomes of patient engagement.

