

What is the purpose of a Patient Participation Group?

- To give practice staff and patients the opportunity to, where possible, share decision making in the running of the practice.
- To provide for patients to make positive suggestions about the practice, and be an advocate for patient preferences when appropriate.
- To provide a means for practice staff to inform patients about the reality of running a General Practice.
- To involve further patients from the wider population, and be an advocate for the practice when appropriate.
- To encourage health education activities within the practice.
- To develop self-help projects to meet the needs of fellow patients, such as befriending, help with transport, and bereavement support.
- To act as a representative group that can be called upon to influence the local provision of health and social care.



Good for the patient because:

- Patients will be more responsible for their own health.
- Patients will have a better understanding and knowledge of the practice and its staff.
- Patients will be consulted about arrangements for their primary health care before decisions are made.
- Patients will benefit from improved communications between patients and staff.
- Patients will have a forum to suggest positive ideas and voice concerns.

Good for the practice because:

- Jointly planned services are more effective and used more efficiently by patients.
- They will be able to help patients with non-medical issues such as loneliness, transport and health education.
- They will be able to get help from patients in meeting targets and objectives, such as surveys.
- They will have a forum to test ideas and suggestions to patients.
- They will get closer to the community for whom they care.