

## Patient-Oriented Research Level of Engagement Tool Companion Document

This document is intended to help better explain the PORLET. If you have questions about how to use the PORLET please email [scpor@usask.ca](mailto:scpor@usask.ca)

### PORLET Origin

The original goal of the tool was to help review committees evaluate patient-oriented research grant proposals.

The PORLET has additional uses. It can help explain patient-oriented research to individuals who are new to this research process. The PORLET can also be used as an aid in writing grants.

### Definitions

**Patient Partners** – Individuals and/or communities who have lived experience with a health issue and have the opportunity to participate as team members in healthcare research. As team members in the research process they take part in decision making about the project. They are not study subjects. The term used by the research team should be determined by the individuals and/or communities they are engaging with.

**Research Priority** – The focus of the research project.

**Patient Identified Priority** – The project focus is important to Patient Partners.

**Outcomes** – These are the ways the information from the research is measured. This information, called data, is collected during a study. Data can be presented as numbers or in words. If the research study includes an intervention, that is an idea, medicine, or practice that may cause a change in a healthcare issue; the data will describe the changed caused by the intervention. The data may also be collected by asking survey questions or interview questions.

**Knowledge Translation** – A process of finding, sharing and using information to improve and strengthen the healthcare system in Canada. It focuses on safely applying new information to improve the health of Canadians, provide more effective health services and products and strengthen the health care system.

**Multidisciplinary Teams** – Several different people who represent different jobs and different points of view are included as members of the research team. During the research process, these people present different ways of looking at the healthcare issue being studied.

### Criteria Cues

Criteria cues are the questions to ask yourself while using the PORLET.

All criteria should take into account the degree to which Patient Partners are comfortable being engaged in that phase of the project.

Criteria	Questions to ask yourself
<b>Criteria 1:</b> Patients are Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are there Patient Partners on the research team?</li> <li>• To what degree do Patient Partners take part in the decision making process?</li> <li>• Are Patient Partners engaged at all levels and stages of the research?</li> <li>• Are there decision-making processes in place whereby Patient Partners are co-building the project plan with researchers, practitioners and other decision-makers within the research team?</li> <li>• Has the team considered a patient engagement plan that describes the number of meetings, the type of communications, the frequency of updates and the possibility of honoraria that will be provided to Patient Partners?</li> </ul>
<b>Criteria 2:</b> Patient Identified Priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have patients or Patient Partners helped identify the proposed research topic and/or questions?</li> <li>• Has the team demonstrated the research idea is a priority for patients?</li> </ul>
<b>Criteria 3:</b> Outcomes Important to Patients	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have Patient Partners been engaged in selecting the outcomes measured?</li> <li>• Have Patient Partners been engaged in choosing how outcomes will be measured?</li> </ul>
<b>Criteria 4:</b> Aims to Integrate Knowledge into Practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are Patient Partners engaged in the creation of a plan to deliver the research in a meaningful way?</li> <li>• Are Patient Partners engaged in sharing the research?</li> </ul>
<b>Criteria 5:</b> Team is Multidisciplinary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does the application describe who is engaged in the research project?</li> <li>• Are relevant health disciplines included? Some examples may include:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clinical Psychologist</li> <li>• Nurse</li> <li>• Pharmacist</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Are relevant research disciplines included? Some examples may include:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Computer Science</li> <li>• Education</li> <li>• Law</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Are relevant stakeholders included? Some examples may include:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community group</li> <li>• Front line workers (e.g., social worker, police officer)</li> <li>• Policymaker</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Is the role of each team member explained?</li> </ul>

The PORLET is designed to measure the level to which a project meets the Canadian Institutes for Health Research definition of Patient-Oriented Research. It is not intended to measure Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI). However, the Canadian Institutes for Health Research Strategy for Patient-Oriented Research initiative acknowledges the importance of EDI in research. A list of EDI Resources is available on the SCPOR website at [scpor.ca/edi](https://scpor.ca/edi).

For projects engaging Indigenous communities, SCPOR has developed the Indigenous Research Level of Engagement Tool (IRLET) that can be used with the PORLET. The IRLET is available at [scpor.ca/scpor-resources-1](https://scpor.ca/scpor-resources-1).