



## CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

### **To a Special Supplement to JGIM: “Patient and Veteran Engagement in Healthcare Research”**

Partnering with patients, caregivers, and other healthcare stakeholders grounds health research in the real-world needs of those who use the results it produces. A growing body of evidence suggests that engagement in research influences and improves how studies are designed and conducted. To share lessons learned from this growing field, the VA Health Services Research and Development Service (VA HSR&D) has joined with the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) to publish a supplement to the *Journal of General Internal Medicine* focused on engaging stakeholders in health research. We invite articles written or co-written by researchers, patients, caregivers, clinicians and other stakeholders. Funding from PCORI or VA HSR&D is not a requirement for submission.

Both PCORI and the VA HSR&D support stakeholder engagement in their own work and have a shared commitment to understanding how it can improve research. To promote research that is relevant and can be taken up in practice more quickly, PCORI involves patients and other stakeholders in its governance, funding decisions, and topic prioritization process while also requiring that all funded studies engage patients and other stakeholders as research partners. The VA HSR&D has a long-standing relationship with VA operations’ partners and, in the last several years, has emphasized the key role Veterans can play in guiding research priorities as well as individual research projects, with the goal of improving the quality of Veteran healthcare.

We ask that authors interested in advancing this field contribute to this special supplement by submitting articles that address at least one of the following topics for review by **February 5, 2021**.

- Influence and impact of engagement on a study and/or the people or organizations who are part of it
- Return on investment (ROI) of engagement for study teams and staff including but not limited to engagement’s impact on the dissemination and implementation of findings in clinical practice and strategies to evaluate and/or measure engagement’s impact and influence
- Specific learning around engagement methods:
  - Aimed at varied populations, especially traditionally underrepresented and marginalized populations
  - Aimed at the interaction between patients/families and additional stakeholder types (e.g., researchers, clinicians, health systems, communities, payers/purchasers, policymakers, training institutions)
  - For various stages of research (e.g., identifying research questions, study design, recruitment and retention, data analysis/interpretation, dissemination)

- Managing tension points between stakeholders and researchers, especially in the design, conduct and interpretation of studies
- Partnership dynamics, balancing power, changing the culture of teams, co-learning
- Sustaining engagement through all phases of a research project and after studies end
- The role of patient-led organizations, funders and other non-researchers in leading and supporting engaged research

**We are interested in four types of articles:**

1. **Original Research:** No longer than 3,000 words describing original research including secondary data analyses, with a structured abstract of no more than 300 words, and no more than 6 tables and figures. Qualitative research articles may be up to 4,000 words.
2. **Perspectives:** No longer than 2,000 words with an unstructured abstract of up to 200 words. Perspectives provide evidence-based views on issues related to engagement in health services research or may present considerations that have not been well-addressed in the current literature.
3. **Reviews:** No longer than 3,500 words, with a structured abstract of up to 300 words. These should be either systematic reviews or meta-analyses of important topics related to engagement in research. Systematic reviews are expected to adhere to the PRISMA guidelines (<http://www.prisma-statement.org/>).
4. **Narratives:** No longer than 1,500 words. These articles provide succinct descriptions of specific experiences and lessons in stakeholder engagement from the perspective of those involved in research studies, e.g. patients, Veterans, caregivers, providers and researchers. \*Note – this is an article type that is unique to this supplement.

See instructions for authors on the *JGIM* website, <https://www.springer.com/journal/11606>, for further details about the first three article types (see “Submissions”). For more information about Narratives, please contact the editors.

**Submission Deadline: February 5, 2021**