

# Action Guide for RESEARCHERS



Researchers and the institutions where they work are critical to the equitable conduct of health technology assessment (HTA). They plan and carry out assessments, generate the evidence on which assessments are based, collect and analyze data, develop new methods, and publish findings. The actions below highlight opportunities for principal investigators, chief science officers, and other research leaders to partner with patients and caregivers in the conduct of HTA, prioritize representation, recognize patient and caregiver contributions, and diversify the HTA workforce.

## Researcher actions to center equity in HTA:

- Establish ongoing partnerships with patients and caregivers to inform all HTA research, from planning and scoping through analysis, synthesis, and application.
- Outline clear roles for co-creation, including how patient input is weighted with other expert input.
- Prioritize partnerships with patients and caregivers who are representative of people experiencing the condition of focus and of communities experiencing persistent health inequities.
- Build into project plans time for earning trust within marginalized communities. Maintain these relationships over time and across projects.
- Compensate and support patient and caregiver partners for all contributions to HTA.
- Establish institutional policies requiring compensation and recognition for patient and caregiver partners.
- Offer patient and caregiver partners opportunities for co-authorship, including support in learning publication processes.
- Include in publications impact of patient and caregiver partnership on objectives, inputs, data, analyses, and interpretation.
- To broaden recruiting efforts for faculty, staff, and students, build relationships with universities and academic programs that serve underrepresented communities (e.g., minority-serving institutions) and provide training in complementary fields (e.g., community-based participatory research).
- Hire and collaborate with individuals who bring experience living and working within a variety of communities, academic disciplines, and professions.
- Create opportunities within the HTA field that do not require a PhD or traditional academic pathways.



## Resource Spotlight: Tools for Researchers

- The [Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute](#) (PCORI) offers a wide range of resources, training, and tools to help research teams partner with patients, caregivers, and other stakeholders throughout the research process. While PCORI focuses on comparative effectiveness research, their guidance is applicable to a wide variety of research approaches, including HTA.
  - A good place to start in developing partnership skills is [Building Effective Multi-Stakeholder Research Teams](#), a two-part interactive learning module that focuses on engaging stakeholders as active members of a team and working together as an effective multi-stakeholder team.
  - PCORI's [Engagement Resources](#) web page provides a wealth of additional resources, including templates for developing an [engagement plan](#), [budgeting for engagement activities](#), and a [guide for engaging with research partners in data analysis](#).
- The National Health Council's [Fair Market Value Calculator](#) offers guidance on fair compensation for patients and caregivers based on their experience, time commitment, contributions, and other considerations. The tool is free for public use and includes an accompanying user guide, glossary, and principles for patient engagement compensation.
- The Equity Lab and the National Health Council created [Inclusive Workplaces](#), a guide with examples and considerations for building a representative workforce across the healthcare sector, including within life sciences companies.

