**Opportunity to contribute to upcoming studies on patient safety**

Colleagues from [The Healthcare Improvement Studies Institute (THIS Institute)](https://www.thisinstitute.cam.ac.uk/) at the University of Cambridge are seeking expressions of interest from local Healthwatch organisations with an interest in patient safety to contribute to the design, delivery and interpretation of studies planned to start over the next few months.

The first study is an evaluation of the recently introduced ‘patient safety specialist’ and ‘patient safety partner’ roles in the NHS. Patient safety specialists are staff member dedicated to leading work to ensure and improve patient safety. Patient safety partners are people from patient and public backgrounds with experience of or interest in patient safety who add their distinctive perspective to an organisation’s efforts to manage and improve safety.

The team are seeking to add to the expert collaborative group on this study – a group that brings together stakeholders from policy, clinical, patient, management and academic perspectives to inform the study as it progresses. The group will meet around seven times over the three-year study (roughly two-hour meetings occurring approximately once every six months), usually online, and will contribute to key decision points, interpretation of findings, and dissemination of results to a wide range of audiences.

The team would particularly welcome expressions of interest from Healthwatch staff and volunteers who have experience of addressing and prioritising patient safety issues in their local health and care economy.

Contributors to the expert collaborative group will be reimbursed for their time and any reasonable expenses incurred will be reimbursed. Public contributors will be reimbursed at a rate of £25/hour (or £100/half day), covering preparation as well as meeting time. For people contributing in a professional role (including employed officers of Healthwatch), consultancy fees are payable to the employing organisation.

If you are interested in learning more, please contact Graham Martin (graham.martin@thisinstitute.cam.ac.uk) by 30 April 2025. There are likely to be other opportunities to contribute to further studies in patient safety and related fields in the near future, and Graham can provide details of these too.