

Dear

NACC is launching a new project which aims to support the partnership of patients and health professionals in working together to improve local services for Colitis and Crohn's Disease through their involvement in an IBD Patients' Panel. We are looking for three or four areas where we could initiate a Patient Panel to facilitate patient/professional interaction in gastroenterology departments. These Panels would be pilots, supported and funded by NACC, and we envisage them working in a variety of ways, not necessarily using a traditional committee structure.

The requirements are quite simple: there needs to be an interest among the local health professionals in working with patients, either to consider an important local service issue that affects IBD patients or to look at improving services for IBD patients in a more general way. We would need one health professional to act as the lead person for the process.

Patient involvement might be led by the local NACC Group where there is one, but we would wish to give all local IBD patients the opportunity to be involved. NACC would provide facilitation to define the objectives and develop ideas on how the Patient Panel could work, and background support would be available throughout. Direct expenses would be covered by NACC, but not the time of those staff who are involved. The pilots would be evaluated so that their experience could inform the development of future IBD or Gastroenterology Patient Panels.

If there are more areas interested in developing a panel than NACC can support in this pilot phase, then we will select areas to provide a geographical spread or a variety of hospital settings.

If you are interested, please make contact with Richard Driscoll at the NACC Office in the first instance – by letter, email (richard.driscoll@nacc.org.uk) or telephone 01727 734479. This does not need to be a detailed proposal at this stage, simply a brief indication of what you hope a Patient Panel would achieve.

Yours sincerely

Richard Driscoll
Director