



Patient Participation Groups and Dementia

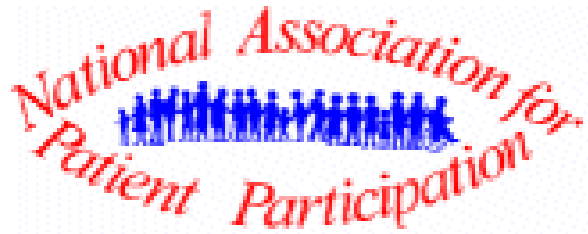
**Presentation to the Royal College of
General Practitioners Annual Conference
(on the occasion of my birthday)**

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Patient Participation Groups: an overview

- **Health promotion**
- **Information provision**
- **Strategic advice**
- **Service provision and support groups**
- **Research**
- **Influencing commissioning**



How does this relate to dementia?

Activities are under way in each of these areas, many of which were identified just through a simple internet search.



Health promotion evenings

Mental health is a fairly common topic as are services for older people

Great opportunity to raise awareness levels

Can be targeted using practice registers

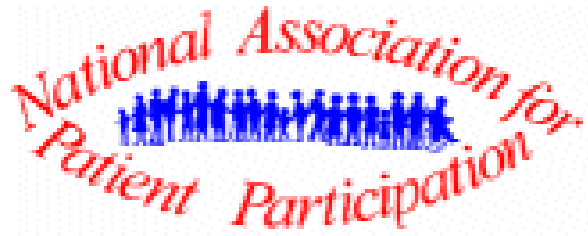


Information provision

Practice newsletters are increasingly common and can feature dementia

Some PPGs run patient libraries

Source of support at time of diagnosis

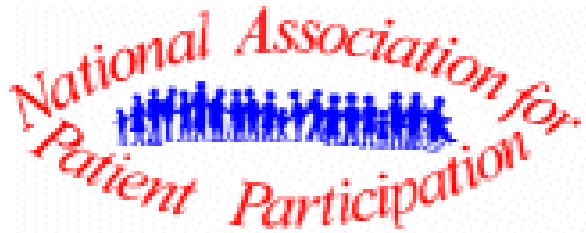


Strategic advice

PPG can discuss opportunities and challenges with the practice

PPG can network with wider community

PPG can promote joined up working



Service provision and support groups

PPGs can run, or practice can host, carer support groups

Early onset groups may be appropriate

PPG can focus attention on Carers Week and related issues

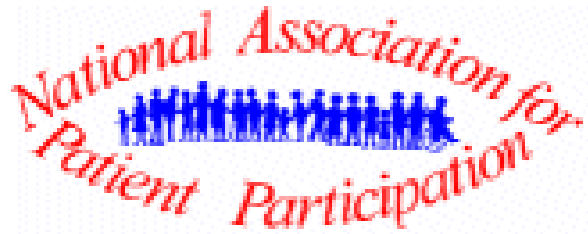


Research

Do the existing patient surveys provide insights in this area?

What method might be more appropriate?

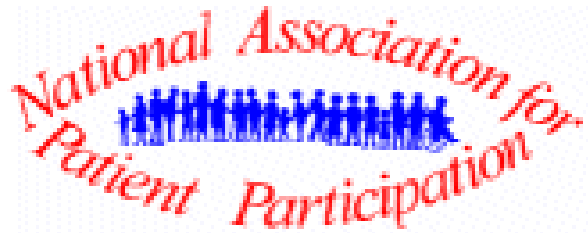
Use of lay interviewers to capture stories



Influencing commissioining

The least developed area...

Ideal model would see PPGs combining to reflect on the local Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and pushing for services that will meet the changing demographic profile in each area.



Conclusions

“Patients have more to offer doctors than their illnesses” (Joan Mant)

PPGs can provide the patient perspective, praising excellence and pushing for joined up services, support for carers, more information, greater understanding and the efficient use of resources.



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