

HOW CAN CONSUMERS PARTICIPATE IN RESEARCH?

SPINAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE | CONSUMER ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM



The contribution of consumers to spinal cord injury research plays a vital role in generating meaningful outcomes. Their involvement at various levels of participation not only enhances the scope and relevance of studies but also ensures that the outcomes are directly beneficial to the community they represent.

KEY BENEFITS OF CONSUMER INVOLVEMENT

Research participants: Research benefits immensely from consumer participation in clinical trials and studies. Such involvement provides researchers with a deeper understanding of the unique challenges and the effectiveness of treatments for spinal injuries, which may include trials of new medications, therapies, or technologies.

Co-designers and advisers: The lived experiences of consumers are invaluable in shaping research. Serving as co-designers and advisers, their insights into the practicality and relevance of studies from a patient perspective are essential. Their collaboration with research teams ensures that studies are sensitively and appropriately designed, leading to more effective outcomes.

Data analysis contributors: Consumers play a crucial role in data analysis, helping to understand trends and patterns in research findings. Their perspectives can highlight key aspects that might be overlooked, contributing to a more comprehensive understanding of research data and its implications for spinal injury treatment and management.

Informed community members: Staying informed about current research and scientific developments is critical for consumers. As informed community members, they critically evaluate new studies and understand their impact on the spinal community. This informed perspective also aids in quality-of-life decision-making, allowing them to choose treatments and care strategies based on the latest research findings.

Drivers of outcomes: By advocating for specific needs or areas of interest, consumers can influence research outcomes. Voicing their priorities and concerns guides the focus of future research, ensuring it addresses the challenges faced by individuals with spinal cord injuries.

Through active engagement, consumers empower not only themselves but also the broader community, fostering a collaborative environment where their experiences contribute significantly to advancements in spinal cord injury research and treatment.

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