

Appendix 1: Questionnaire

Note: question numbers preceded with an asterisk (*) are the subset of questions received by the group who had not previously reviewed.

Motivation to review

*1) What were your main reasons for agreeing to be a patient reviewer for [The BMJ / RIE]? _____

2) Thinking of the last research paper you reviewed for [The BMJ / RIE], how important were each of the following factors in your decision to accept to review?

	Not at all important	Slightly important	Moderately important	Very important	Extremely important
a) The opportunity to learn something new from the paper?					
b) The relevance of the topic to your own experience/interests?					
c) The contribution of the paper to the subject area?					
d) The desire to keep up-to-date on current research?					
e) The opportunity to add the patient or carer perspective?					

Reasons for declining to review

*3a) Have you ever declined a request to review a research paper for [The BMJ / RIE]?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

If Yes,

*3b) Thinking of the last paper you declined to review for [The BMJ / RIE], what was your main reason(s) for declining? _____

*4) Thinking of the last research paper you declined to review for [The BMJ / RIE], how important were each of the following factors in your decision to decline to review?

	Not at all important	Slightly important	Moderately important	Very important	Extremely important
a) Insufficient interest in the paper?					
b) Not having experience of the condition reported in the paper?					
c) Your state of health or the state of health of the person you care for?					
d) Tight deadline for completing the review?					
e) Conflicts with other workload?					
f) Conflicts with family commitments or responsibilities?					
g) Having conflicting interests (that might bias your review)?					
h) Not having received training in how to review a paper?					
i) Comments not taken into account in past reviewing experience?					
j) Dislike of the open peer review process?					
k) Lack of formal recognition of reviewer contribution?					
l) Having to use the online review system?					

Quality of instructions and guidance received

5) How helpful were the instructions you received from [The BMJ / RIE] about what to include in your review?

- Not at all helpful
- Slightly helpful
- Moderately helpful
- Very helpful
- Extremely helpful

6) How confident did you feel when you conducted your **first** review for [The BMJ / RIE]?

- Not at all confident
- Slightly confident
- Moderately confident
- Very confident
- Extremely confident

7) How confident did you feel when you conducted your **last** review for [The BMJ / RIE]?

- Not at all confident
- Slightly confident
- Moderately confident
- Very confident
- Extremely confident

- Not applicable (I have completed only one review)

8) If you have noticed a change in your confidence to review, what do you think has caused this?

Open review

For transparency, [The BMJ / RIE] has a policy of open review, where all reviewers are asked to sign their reviews and the signed review is seen by the authors of the paper and the readers of the article (if the article is published by us).

*9) Do you have any concerns about doing open review for [The BMJ / RIE] ?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

If yes, please give brief details:

Acknowledgement

BMJ version

We do not pay patient or academic reviewers to review for *The BMJ* but we do give a free one year online subscription to the journal (bmj.com). We also publish a thank you to all those who reviewed for us in the previous year and list their names on our website.

RIE version

We do not pay patient or academic reviewers to review for *RIE* but patients or service users who have reviewed a certain number of articles within any period of 12 months, are entitled to receive one Article Processing Charge (APC) waiver for an article submitted to the journal. We also publish a thank you to all those who reviewed for us in the previous year and list their names on our website.

*10) How else might [The BMJ / RIE] acknowledge patient reviewers for their help? _____

Communications with editors and authors

11) Have you reviewed a paper for [The BMJ / RIE] where the editor subsequently asked the authors to revise it and respond to all the reviewers' comments and [The BMJ / RIE] shared these comments with you?

- Yes
- No

If No, use skip format so they don't see Q12a, Q12b, and go straight to Q13 (Overall experience)

If Yes,

Thinking of the last paper that you reviewed for [The BMJ / RIE] where you saw the authors' response to all the reviewers' comments.....

12a) To what extent do you agree that the authors of the paper addressed the points you raised in your review?

- Strongly agree Agree Neither agree nor disagree Disagree Strongly disagree

12b) To what extent do you agree that the authors were courteous when addressing the points you raised in your review?

- Strongly agree Agree Neither agree nor disagree Disagree Strongly disagree

Review content

13) Have you been able to include points important to patients or carers in your review(s) that were not raised by the other (academic) peer reviewers?

- Yes
 No
 Other (please specify): _____

14) What other areas or aspects of research papers do you think patient reviewers should be encouraged to comment on that [The BMJ / RIE] does not currently ask you to address? _____

Overall experience

15) Would you recommend being a patient reviewer for [The BMJ / RIE] to other patients and carers?

- Yes
 No
 Not sure

Please explain your response to the question above: _____

16) On the basis of your experience so far do you think that more journals should adopt patient review?

- Yes
 No
 Not sure
 Other (please specify): _____

*17) What thoughts would you like to share with editors at other journals thinking about involving patients and carers in the peer review process? _____

*18) How can we improve the experience of being a patient reviewer for [The BMJ / RIE]? _____

[Any further comments?](#)

*19) Any other comments about being a patient reviewer for [The BMJ / RIE]? _____

[Finally a few questions about yourself](#)

*20) Are you:

- A patient?
- A carer?
- Both a patient and a carer?
- Other (please specify): _____

*21) Have you ever reviewed papers as a patient or carer for any other publications and or organisations?
(Please tick all that apply).

- No
- [The BMJ / Research Involvement and Education, RIE]
- The Journal of Participatory Medicine
- Cochrane
- Other (please specify): _____

*22) In which country do you mainly live? [drop down menu]

*23) On average, approximately how many days a month do you spend on Patient Involvement and Engagement activities, other than patient reviewing?

Drop down menu: Less than one day; 1; 2; 3;31 days

Thank you for your valuable time and supporting this initiative