

How can you help?

Patient and Public Research partners can help in many ways, such as:

- Assisting researchers to analyze the data gathered in the study
- Helping to make sense of the findings
- Developing the most important messages from the research.

Will you be paid and acknowledged?

Absolutely! As a Patient and Public Research Partner, you will be paid for your time and travel costs. Your input will be acknowledged, as we value your insights.

What is your commitment?

You can decide with the research team what activities interest you most.

As a research partner, you can decide how much time you can commit. You can decide when you want to start and stop taking part in the research.



What is the Aging, Community and Health Research Unit?

The Aging, Community and Health Research Unit is a group of researchers at McMaster University who are working together with Patient and Public Research Partners, health and social services providers, and policy makers to do research.

Our goal is to:

- To promote optimal aging at home for older adults with multiple chronic conditions, and
- To support their family and caregivers.

Visit our website at achru.mcmaster.ca

Developed together with Patient and Public Research Partners, and funded by the Labarge Optimal Aging Initiative.

To learn more about the Aging, Community and Health Research Unit or becoming a Patient and Public Research Partner: Call Joanne at **905.525.9140 ext. 20378**

Email: achru@mcmaster.ca



STAGE 3: Analyzing data

How can Patient and Public Research Partners contribute to preparing and analyzing data, and forming conclusions?



What is data analysis?

Data analysis can be split into two steps: discovering useful information and forming conclusions.

Step 1. Discovering useful information

To prepare for analysis:

- Qualitative data needs to be converted into written text
- Quantitative data needs to be entered into computer software.

Then data analysis can begin. The approach to analysis depends on whether the data is qualitative or quantitative.

QUALITATIVE

Examples of data: Interview transcripts, journal notes, written answers to questions, captions on photos.

Examples of analysis: Search for and record ideas that come up repeatedly in the text. These form themes.

That was the first time I saw the **doctor** after the **hospital**... The office had called me to make the **appointment**. There were a few different **doctors** that took care of me when I was in the **hospital**..

- Doctors
- Appointments
- Hospital stay

QUANTITATIVE

Examples of data: Survey response scores on a numbered scale, costs of an old and new way of delivering care, how often services are used, characteristics of participants such as age, income.



Examples of analysis: Calculate the average age and compare by sex.

Sex	Average age
Female	68
Male	82

$$68 + 82 \div 2 = 75$$

Overall average: 75



When it comes to numeric data, researchers often work with statisticians to help with analysis.

Step 2. Forming conclusions

The next step is to figure out the most important messages resulting from the analysis.

These messages often inform recommendations, for example changes needed in health and social care delivery, or future research.

