

### Idea and research design

- Come up with a research question or questions
- Develop a proposal for how to answer the question(s)

The broad research question for this project is ‘How is our understanding of genes and genomics changing things for cancer patients?’ but there are a number of more specific questions which we will address in order to answer this.

### Funding

- Apply for funding for the project

This project has been funded by the [Wellcome Trust](#), an independent global charitable foundation that funds research focussed on improving health. The project is funded for 5 years, from 2015 to 2020.

### Review the literature

- Find out more about what is already known about the topic

We have written a review of the important academic literature that provides a background to this study. This review will be ready soon for publication in an academic journal, and it will be shared with the PPI panel once it is finalised.

### Scoping

- Find out more about what is happening in the field and what the important issues are

We are planning to speak to scientists and clinicians to get a better understanding of what’s happening in the field of cancer research and we will also speak to people affected by cancer to understand what their priorities are. Members of the PPI panel may be asked for their views on this.

### Develop the research design

- Make sure the questions we’re asking are still appropriate and that the methods proposed will help to answer them

We will use what we have learned in the scoping interviews to further refine the research questions and make final decisions about the research design. The views of PPI panel members will be important at this stage.

### Prepare the paperwork

- Prepare topic guides, cover letters, participant information leaflets and consent forms

Members of the PPI panel will be asked to help to ensure that information for participants is easy to understand and answers the questions people are likely to have. We will also test our proposed interview questions with the panel to ensure they make sense.

### Ethical review

- Submit details of the proposed research and all paperwork to an NHS Research Ethics Committee

Research that involves NHS patients must be approved by a [Research Ethics Committee](#). This process has a number of steps that panel members may be interested in learning more about. We will involve members of the panel in a discussion about ethical issues as part of preparing our submission.

### Recruiting participants

- Recruit patients, carers, people involved in cancer research and members of the general public to be participants in the study

Members of the PPI panel can help us to decide the most appropriate ways to approach and recruit participants for our research, and may be able to help with recruitment, for example by approaching people on our behalf.

### Collecting data

- Carry out interviews and focus groups with research participants and observations in research settings

The research team are all social scientists and qualitative researchers. The difference between qualitative and quantitative research is explained [here](#). The methods we use will be mainly interviews, focus groups and observation.

### Analysing data

- Analyse the data by identifying themes and patterns in our records and notes

Members of the PPI panel may be shown some of the data to explore their interpretations, which could identify different themes and patterns for us to consider. Panel members may also be asked to comment on which themes are the most important and why.

Report the findings

- Report the results of the research in peer-reviewed journal articles, books and conference papers

Share the findings

- Share the results with non-academic audiences through public engagement activities

Make a difference?

- We hope our findings will eventually have an influence on both policy and practice

Evaluation

- Evaluate the effectiveness of the PPI process

Members of the PPI panel may wish to review and comment on research articles and papers before they are finalised.

The PPI panel will advise on ways to disseminate the findings to diverse audiences and may help us to present our findings at engagement events.

Members of the panel may be able to play an advocacy role, championing the findings and making sure that they are adopted wherever possible.

We will evaluate how well we have involved patients and members of the public in our research and we will ask members of the PPI panel to contribute to this evaluation by sharing experiences and views on what worked well or less well.