

## **Barriers and solutions to working with patient authors:**

### **A survey of publications professionals**

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#### **Plain language summary**

A short, confidential survey was distributed to people working on scientific publications within Prime Global, a medical communications company. We wanted to find out how much experience people had in working with patients as authors on scientific publications. We also wanted to gauge how much was understood about existing guidelines and to see what barriers might be in the way of more widespread involvement of patient authors.

Results showed that patient authorship is uncommon, and experience levels are low. In total, 35 out of the 40 people who responded to the survey had not worked with a patient author within the last year. Most people either did not know or were unsure how patients could meet the authorship criteria provided by the most well-known guidelines from the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE). The most common barrier identified to working with patient authors was a lack of experience, followed by a lack of/unclear guidelines and being unsure of the value of working with patient authors. Respondents suggested that clearer guidance, practical training and improved awareness on the value of involving patient authors are needed.