

A PhD Researcher's Experience of WY R&D

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My PhD research explores the experiences people living with advanced cancer have with their medicines. As a nurse, new to healthcare research, I initially made contact with the team at WY R&D when embarking on the Primary Care phase of my project. I was keen to involve the perspectives of GPs, Practice Pharmacists and Community Nurses in my work, yet navigating the necessary governance processes proved daunting. The Research Governance team at WY R&D provided invaluable assistance throughout the HRA application process, advising on the both the ethics and feasibility of my study design.

This however, was only the beginning of their active involvement in my project. I maintained contact with the team and their support in disseminating my study materials to practices and individuals enabled me to reach a wide group of eligible participants. With limited experience of primary care this guidance was really useful and I was able to fulfil my sampling target.

The team also invited me along to TARGET events, which are dedicated educational sessions for primary care professionals. These provided a fantastic opportunity to engage with people face-to-face about my research and communicate some of the passion that it can be difficult to capture within the restrictions of study literature.



The connections I made with the team further continued to support subsequent PhD work. The third phase of my project involved public engagement with key stakeholders in cancer care. The WY R&D team was instrumental in helping me forge connections and facilitated my first engagement activity at a WY R&D session exploring research into the earlier diagnosis of cancer. The contacts I made during that initial event led to 3 further engagement events involving different stakeholder groups.

My research has not only been facilitated, but really enhanced by my relationship with the team at WY R&D. I would strongly urge other researchers to get in touch and find out how they can support your research!