



**National Institute for  
Health Research**

Clinical Research Network  
Cancer

**We Need To Talk!**

# **National Cancer Patient Experience Survey (NCPES) 2014**

**Questions on Research: Responses from Patients**

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**Delivering research to make patients,  
and the NHS, better**

## Background

NCPES 2014 includes data on 70,141 recently treated patients from the 153 NHS Trusts in England that provide acute cancer services, a response rate of 64%.

Questions about the patient experience of cancer research in 2014 & 2013 were:

*“Have you seen information (such as leaflets, posters, information screens etc.) about cancer research in your hospital?”*

*“Since your diagnosis has anyone discussed with you whether you would like to take part in cancer research?”*

*“If so did you then go on to take part in research?”*

## Findings in 2014 (2013 in brackets)

In 2014 more patients saw information about research 86% (85%)

Fewer had a discussion 31% (32%)

And fewer then went on take part: 63% (64%)

All three research questions show statistically significant variations between Tumour types and between Trusts. For the question asking whether patients had a discussion the range by Tumour type is from 14% to 37% and by Trust from 10% to 61%

## Discussion

Richard Stephens, Chair of the <sup>1</sup>Consumer Liaison Group (CLG), comments:

*The variations between Trusts remain wide, and there is an inequality of access to research opportunities for cancer patients that needs to be addressed swiftly. There are opportunities for all those working as part of the <sup>2</sup>NIHR’s Local Clinical Research Networks to address this.*

*Evidence shows that patients offered research opportunities are more likely to report higher satisfaction levels with their care, and even more likely to do so if they go on to participate in research. We also know that research-active Trusts are more likely to produce better outcomes for all their patients, not just those taking part in research. It is in everyone’s interest to have more research opportunities in our cancer services, for those opportunities to be offered to cancer patients, and for patients, advocates and charities to ask for them.*

*The NIHR’s annual <sup>3</sup>Ok to Ask campaign offers the NHS opportunities to promote both the availability and the need for research. I hope that all Trusts will participate next year within their NIHR local research networks, especially those where patients are reporting that they are not having discussions with staff about taking part in research. Perhaps too the NCRI ([www.ncri.org.uk](http://www.ncri.org.uk)) and its Partners might instigate a national cancer research week across the UK to encourage all of us to have the conversations that are not yet taking place.*

The National Report on NCPES 2014 can be viewed or downloaded as a PDF from the Quality Health website: [www.quality-health.co.uk](http://www.quality-health.co.uk) where reports by Trusts can also be found.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.crn.nihr.ac.uk/cancer/pcpie/the-consumer-liaison-group>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.crn.nihr.ac.uk/networks>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.nihr.ac.uk/get-involved/ok-to-ask.htm>