

## Increasing Capacity in Forensic Patient-Oriented Research

### Keywords

*Patient-oriented research; forensic patients; capacity-building; training*

### Helpful Terms

**Deliberative dialogue event:** A structured discussion among diverse participants aimed at finding common ground and solutions for a specific issue.

**Forensic patients:** Patients with serious mental illnesses who have become involved with the criminal justice system.

**Implementation science:** The study of how to best put scientific research findings into practice in the real world.

**Patient-oriented research:** Research that involves patients and their families and caregivers in every part of the research process. Helps improve patients' health and experiences of care.

**Project Title:** Supporting the adoption and uptake of patient-oriented research in forensic mental health settings: A multi-site implementation project

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### Key Question

- How can we best adapt guidelines and best practices for patient-oriented research in the forensic context?

### Project Aims

Forensic patients are some of the most vulnerable in society. Yet there is little research on patient-centered care in forensic psychiatric hospitals in Canada. By engaging patients in forensic research, we can improve forensic patients' safety and experiences of care.

This project is based at both Waypoint and the Regional Psychiatric Centre, a medium-security forensic facility in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. Working across our sites, the project team will develop trusting partnerships among forensic patients and their families, hospital staff, and clinical and non-clinical researchers. The goal is to develop the expertise and tools we need to embed patient-oriented policies and practices in our research programs. The project takes an ethical, culturally safe approach that centers the lived experiences of forensic patients.

### Activities

- Building strong relationships with patients and their families, hospital leaders, clinicians, researchers, and Indigenous Knowledge Keepers and Elders.
- Providing an emerging health leader at Waypoint with extensive support, mentorship and training in patient-oriented research, implementation science, and equity and diversity.
- Synthesizing existing knowledge on patient-oriented research in forensic settings.
- Developing trainings, resources, policies and guidance for forensic patient-oriented research. Working with a pilot group to test and refine these products.
- Hosting a deliberative dialogue event and publishing our findings. Sharing learnings and resources through a Canada-wide learning community.