

Theme 6 Public and Patient Involvement Plan

This document outlines the Public & Patient Involvement (PPI) plan for Theme 6: Biomarkers and Triage. This theme focuses on the development of robust, rapid and reliable biomarkers that enable the identification of exposure and contribute to decisions about medical management of casualties including triage. These biomarkers should be as near patient as is feasible, depending on the technology required, and either a marker of a specific exposure or of the adverse effect of the agent. Work will be conducted in the following areas

- Identification of priority chemicals and exposure scenarios, in collaboration with PHE and DH
- Development and/or adaptation of analytical approaches for near patient use
- Operational assessment of biological effect marker approaches developed for “near patient” use in previous research projects
- Integration of near patient methods and decontamination protocols into a revised concept of operations
- Exercise of revised concept of operations and identification of best responder practise
- Incorporation of research outcomes into guidelines for a revised concept of operations for medical responders

This plan will guide PPI activity for Theme 6 research projects. We will review this plan regularly, as new projects start and based on feedback from the HPRU central management, our researchers and the members of the public who take part in the activities.

In line with EPR HPRU PPI policy, this plan only focuses on activities where the public are actively involved in our research projects and does not include public engagement or research dissemination activities.

The activities we will engage in in order to pursue this plan are outlined in the table below:

PPI activity	Aim	Schedule	Indicators of success
PPI Steering committee at Newcastle with an appointed lay representative (shared with Theme 5 to maximise resource use) meet	1. Agree PPI strategy – how best to shape research, understand public concerns, improve risk communication, disseminate results and consider barriers to implementation (cultural, organisational etc)	Met in March 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lay Member (Pamela Denham) appointed • Agreed strategy for PPI for theme 6
Approach focus groups with experience in providing feedback on guidance such as Voice North Research Support	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To review the outcomes of laboratory research and exposure scenarios. 2. To consider ways to recruit members of the public who have been involved in mass casualty incidents, such as fires in order to establish a focus group to consider future research outcomes 	<p>Share research outcomes once they are available (March/ April 2016).</p> <p>Arrange a series of discussions with focus groups about the findings.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification and involvement of focus group interested in and engaged with the research. • Improved understanding of factors which may affect perceived public acceptability of near patient biomarker approaches, and identification of ways in which acceptability of such methods can be improved.
Approach focus groups such as Voice North Research Support	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To obtain feedback on the proposed classification of casualties during the triage process. 2. To identify any areas that could be improved, in terms of information which is missing or which should be included, or information requiring clarification. 	Following delivery of the briefing document on proposed integration of biomonitoring, decontamination and triage (March/April 2016)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved understanding of factors which may affect perceived public acceptability of classification of casualties during a large scale incident, and identification of ways in which acceptability of such methods can be improved. • Public feedback facilitates clarification and improvement where necessary.