A quick guide

Using the term people with lived and living experience (PWLLE)

Our words matter.
This tip sheet provides practical guidance for using consistent, inclusive language when talking about people and communities involved in health research.

Terminology	Usage	Example
People with lived and living experience (PWLLE)	Preferred term for people collaborating on research by sharing their lived/living experience.	The project included people with lived and living experience (PWLLE) on the research team.
PWLLE	Acceptable term AFTER spelling out the full term the first time it appears.	Feedback from PWLLE helped improve the education materials.
People and communities	Term for broad discussions about engagement and research impact.	The project aims to improve health outcomes for people and communities across the Maritimes.
Patient-oriented research	The established name of the research methodology.	The MSSU supports patient-oriented research across the Maritimes.
Patient	Appropriate when referring to people receiving health care, or involved in clinical trials.	The study recruited patients from primary care clinics.

EVERY PROJECT IS DIFFERENT

There may be situations where terms such as patient partner, community partner, caregiver, family partner, public partner, or another community-preferred term are more appropriate. Individual preference should always guide the terminology we use.

Researchers should ask members of the research team which terms are appropriate in your context. This includes how PWLLE would like to be identified or listed on research papers and/or summary reports.

Have questions or want to learn more about our approach to inclusive language? Email patientengagement@mssu.ca

GRAMMAR TIP

PWLLE is plural.
Do not add an 's' (PWLLEs)

The term partners may be used, but always spell out partners with lived and living experience. For an individual, use person with lived and living experience or partner with lived and living experience.

Do not use the acronym in these instances.