

Enhancing Participant Centred Research through the Participant Research Experience Survey (PRES)

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Introduction: Since 2015, the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) has used the Participant Research Survey (PRES) to prioritise participant experiences in research. PRES forms allow participants to share their insights, highlighting successes and areas for improvement. This feedback ensures research address the real-world issues, fostering trust and leading to higher participation rates and improved data quality.

Method: The Yorkshire Lung Screening Trial (YLST) actively enrolled new participants from November 2018 to October 2024. To gather feedback, participants were given options to ensure convenience and accessibility. They could choose between completing a paper copy at home returning it by mail, or using a tablet provided at the end of their appointment to fill in a digital form. Additionally, a QR code option could be provided, allowing participants to complete the survey at their convenience later.

Results: The following results are from the last three quarters up to February 2025. Data collected from the PRES forms revealed high levels of participant satisfaction and engagement. Out of 140 participants, 137 (97.8%) felt valued by taking part in YLST, and 138 (98.5%) indicated they would consider participating in research again. Notably, 63 (45%) of these participants were taking part in research for the first time. These results underscore the positive impact of YLST on participants experiences and its success.

Conclusion: The PRES feedback has been invaluable for YLST, especially with the inclusion of open-ended questions, which allow participants to give their own opinions. This enables researchers to understand what participants valued in their work and thus good practice can be identified and applied to other studies where applicable. PRES will continue to be a valuable tool for improving participant-centred research, ensuring it addresses the needs and experiences of all participants.

References:

YH RRDN: PRES FY2425 › Quarterly Returns