Frequently Asked Questions

What are the timelines for establishing the CMA Patient Voice?

- The call for nominations will open on May 22
- The call for nominations will close on July 13
- Successful applicants will be notified in September 2018
- The first meeting of the CMA Patient Voice is planned for Q4 2018

How many patient representatives will be on the CMA Patient Voice?

- The CMA Patient Voice will be comprised of 10-12 patient representatives, plus two appointed CMA Board members, from different communities across Canada.

How will the CMA ensure diversity from across Canada?

- The CMA Patient Voice’s members will provide a range of patient perspectives from a broad cross-section of Canadian society, representing:
  - Indigenous communities;
  - Francophone communities;
  - LGBT communities;
  - ethnocultural communities;
  - persons with disabilities; and
  - other communities (e.g., religious groups).

Who will select the successful applicants?

- The nominations will be reviewed by a selection panel comprised of at least two external patient engagement experts and at least two CMA staff members with experience in patient and public engagement. The short list of successful applicants will be reviewed in consultation with CMA elected officials.

What is the membership criterion to apply?

- Knowledge and experience as a patient in Canada
- Permanent resident/Canadian citizen
- Ability to communicate in English or French
- At least 18 years of age
- Ability to attend two in-person meetings a year
- Supportive of the goals of the CMA
Will representatives on the CMA Patient Voice be remunerated?

• CMA Patient Voice members will not be remunerated for their involvement; however, all reasonable expenses related to their work with the CMA Patient Voice will be covered as per CMA policy. The CMA will provide financial compensation to the CMA Patient Voice participants for the logistical costs they incur to participate such as travel, accommodations, meals, and elder and child care costs.

How long are representatives expected to serve on the CMA Patient Voice?

• CMA Patient Voice participants will commit to a term of one year with the possibility of extending their participation to two additional one-year terms, for a maximum of three years.

Can physicians participate in the group?

• Should physicians fit the criteria and represent themselves as a patient in the Canadian health system, they are welcome to apply.

Will the CMA Patient Voice elect a Chair?

Yes, the Chair will be elected by participants of the CMA Patient Voice.

• The Chair must be a non-physician.
• The term of office of the Chair will be two years, with the possibility of extending the mandate for one additional year.
• The Chair will have previous experience serving on at least one other board.
• The Chair will have the ability to facilitate group dynamics, foster a collaborative approach and encourage open communication and constructive debate while building consensus.

Are there other ways patients can engage with the CMA?

• The CMA engages patients in a number of ways, such as through public surveys on topics like the CMA Code of Ethics, the Health Accord, Election strategy, public participation at CMA events, key informant interviews, its DemandaPlan campaign, and more. Please contact patientvoice@cma.ca for more information.

I have a question that wasn’t answered here.

• Please feel free to contact patientvoice@cma.ca if you have any further questions.