



WHAT NCEPOD DOES AND WHY LAY INVOLVEMENT IS SO IMPORTANT

A blog by Praan Moodley

NCEPOD Youth Lay Member

NCEPOD, the 'National Confidential Enquiry into Patient Outcome and Death', is a charity and a company that aims to maintain and improve healthcare standards for the public. We work by peer reviewing the care of patients through the use of surveys, questionnaires and case notes. The results stay anonymous, but the general trends are published on various platforms and recommendations are made for how care can be improved across the country.

Much of the work of NCEPOD may not be seen by the public, however, we play a key role in creating a good healthcare service for all. Each year, NCEPOD will run an open call and ask healthcare organisations to send in proposals for future studies. NCEPOD is incredibly flexible, with the only two guidelines being the ideas should be 'relevant to the current clinical environment', and also 'have the potential to contribute original work to the subject'. NCEPOD is incredibly accessible too, with individuals being able to submit study proposals independently on our website.

Involvement in NCEPOD benefits multiple organisations, such as 'NHS England', 'the Welsh Government' and the 'Department of Health, Northern Ireland'. All of NCEPOD's proposals and studies require 'lay members'. Lay members are instrumental in NCEPOD's work, as they provide a non-clinical view on many of the publications. By giving their view on the wording and format of the publications, lay members make the proposals more accessible and acceptable to the general public. This makes lay members a valuable part of the NCEPOD machine, as they are able to filter out the medical jargon used and display it in a more user-friendly format.

As a current youth lay member of NCEPOD, my eyes have been opened to many of the studies that take place in the medical field. As an aspiring doctor, I believe that my involvement with NCEPOD has helped me understand more about healthcare in the NHS. Areas such as dysphagia would have been a mystery to me until university, however, due to NCEPOD, I have had the opportunity to research and understand dysphagia, with input and help from NCEPOD. Being a Lay Member at NCEPOD is not a time-consuming commitment, which makes it more accessible to individuals still in education, such as myself. As a lay member, you only have to take part in projects that interest you, or that fit into your schedule. Input is always acted upon, and advice on what to look for in the original drafts is given. You are also able to join in with the steering group meetings and general meetings of NCEPOD, with input always asked of you.

If you are interested in the role you can find out more here: www.ncepod.org.uk/vacancies.html