

Study Title: In-Touch: Implementation of a person-centered palliative care intervention to improve comfort, quality of life and social engagement of people with advanced dementia in care homes

Seeking Volunteers for the In-Touch Study Care Partner Advisory Group

We are looking for caregiver volunteers to join an international Care Partner Advisory Group (CPAG). This group will advise a team of researchers that is developing and testing the In-Touch intervention in a large 5-year research study across 7 countries in Europe (Ireland, United Kingdom, Italy, Poland, Portugal, Netherlands, and the Czech Republic), called the In-Touch study.

What is the In-Touch Intervention?

The In-Touch intervention is a palliative care intervention for people with advanced dementia who live in long-term care homes, their families/care partners, and staff. The In-Touch intervention has great potential to improve the care of residents who have advanced dementia; to promote a proactive palliative care approach among staff; and to build family-staff partnerships in shared decision-making on ‘in the moment care’ (Namaste Care) and future care planning (Family Carer Decision Support).

How will the Care Partner Advisory Group be involved?

The research team at McMaster University (in Canada) will hold virtual meetings (over MS Teams) with group members from all partner countries, to gather input and feedback on In-Touch intervention materials and other study activities that emerge as the project progresses. In the *mySupport* study, care partners were involved in activities such as reviewing study recruitment materials, helping with analysis, knowledge translation, and/or presenting and writing publications about the study findings. Essentially care partners can choose activities that they are interested in and feel comfortable contributing to.

Meetings will occur every month and will last from 1-2 hours. We understand that participation may change at times, depending on other commitments. For example, since many care partners will be working closely with their local teams to adapt the In-Touch intervention (WP1) in the first year, care partners may not have enough time during this first year to contribute to the international panel. Hopefully, once the work within the adaptations team is complete, time will be freed up to participate more so on the international panel. Care partners can contribute as much or as little as they like.

We are looking to recruit 2-4 care partners and a ‘research buddy’ per country. The research buddy will be particularly helpful for those countries where English is not their first language.

Please contact us to learn more:

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