

Where to Find Caregiver Advisors to Serve in Any Advisory Roles

While every organization is different, there are some general recommendations of where to look for caregivers who are eligible to become Caregiver Advisors (for information on how to create an advertisement, see our '**Advertising Suggestions**' in Recruitment):

- Contact **your organization's Volunteer Coordinator** to see if there are any existing caregiver advisors with specific healthcare experiences needed to inform the work you will be doing.
- The best advisors are the caregivers whose loved ones have **experienced care in the specific program** area you are interested in improving.
- Ask **physicians** and other **providers** to identify families.
- Ask **patients** and **families** who are already involved if they have a friend who might be interested in participating.
- Contact family **networks, support groups, or advocacy organizations**.
- Post **notices** in appropriate languages on bulletin boards in reception areas in clinics and on hospital units.
- Advertise in your organization's **bulletin** or **newsletter**.
- Include information about opportunities for caregivers to participate as advisors in hospital **surveys** and **patient handbooks**.
- Set up an information booth for advisors at **community educational events**.
- Use "**key informants**" and "**caregiver champions**" – people in the community who are knowledgeable about patients and families' needs and are a link to other patient and family groups.
- Ask community and service **leaders**.
- Ask your **Patient Relations Department** for names of people who cared enough to give your organization feedback in the form of complaints or compliments.
- Post a notice on your organization's **website** and include FAQs.
- Use Tweets, Facebook postings or other **social media**.
- Put advertisements in local **newspapers** or public service announcements on community **radio/TV** stations.
- Contact **hospital foundation** for possible volunteers, if applicable.

Adapted from *A Guidebook for engaging patient and family advisors*. (2016). Alberta Health Services.

Originally adapted from Bellows, M., Oberman, H., & Zimmerman, M. (2012). Meaningful recruitment of patient and family advisors. Canadian Foundation for Healthcare Improvement.

