



Step 1: Identification and Recruitment of Care Partners and Research Buddies

Lead researchers in each partner country in the In-Touch consortium met virtually with the Canadian research lead, Dr. Sharon Kaasalainen and the PPI coordinator, and were asked to identify 2-4 care partner volunteers from their various professional networks, and a member of the local research team (e.g., a student or research assistant), to join the CPAG. Care Partner members are, a) individuals who have lived experience as a care partner (i.e., a family member) who provide or provided care or support for a person with advanced dementia in a long-term care home, in the past or present. Care partners of a person with dementia who does not live in long-term care have also been included; b) are 18 years of age or older; c) have a good working knowledge of English (read, speak and comprehend); and d) live in one of the ten partner countries (Ireland, United Kingdom, Italy, Poland, Portugal, Netherlands, Czechia, Slovenia, Belgium, and Canada). Lead researchers received a short summary, describing the plan for the Care Partner Advisory Group.

Upon receiving the contact information of potential Care Partners, the PPI coordinator contacted the care partner by email, using the email recruitment script and arranged to meet with the care partner by MS Teams to explain the study and the CPAG, and review the study consent form. All potential participants received a copy of the study consent form, by email before the consent discussion.



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