

We need your help

At the Surgical MedTech Co-operative we would like to explore the lived experiences of people like you -patients (and their carers) that are about to or have undergone colorectal, liver/pancreas/gall bladder or vascular surgery. These might be experiences from before you had your operation to your care and experiences after your operation.

All your experiences will be shared and explored during our National Meeting on Tuesday, 19 November 2019 at Cloth Hall Court in Leeds,

What we need you to do

‘A picture is worth a thousand words’

We are using a technique called “Photovoice” which allows people to express concerns and issues most important and relevant to them via photos. Because “a picture is worth a thousand words”, it can be a powerful way to help others understand and connect with the issues.

We would like you to taking photos of concerns and issues that represent your individual perspective and lived experience. Here are some examples of things you might want to think about:

- Mobility – you could submit an image of access to a building that is currently acting as a barrier or it could be related to pain following surgery.
- Skin irritation – there may be some technologies where one of the accepted side-effects is skin irritation, which in turn impacts on your quality of life, or increases costs in other areas.
- Anxiety – this could be associated with the lack of early detection systems for diagnosis, screening, monitoring, recovery or minimally invasive techniques that reduce trauma, improve recovery times and return to normal function.
- Recovery – this could be impact of your operation and perhaps the effects on your quality of life, independence, employment, financial stability, etc.

We will then ask you to submit your images to the Surgical MedTech Co-operative. Ideally we would like you to tell the story behind the images which will help provide useful context for the discussions at our National Meeting.

We are only asking for 3-5 sentences for each image

What will happen to your images?

At the National Meeting we will display all your images as a backdrop for the meeting and it will be a strong reminder of the importance of the patient perspective.

We will be grouping the images together helped by a number of patient and public representatives that have volunteered to help us categorise images and select some for discussion.

A summary of the discussions will be produced and included in our National Meeting report, as well as next steps for the Surgical MedTech Co-operative to take to hopefully make some of the ideas a reality and make a difference to people like you.

Why are we doing this?

We have been tasked by our funders with facilitating the development and evaluation of medical devices and technologies that will transform patient care and health outcomes in the NHS and so your perspective is essential.

Ideas for medical devices and technologies can be initiated and driven by private companies, academics, healthcare professionals and patients/carers. However, there are plenty of devices and technologies that solve the technical or logistical problems but they may not always directly benefit people like you - the patient.

We would like to use our National Meeting as a platform to raise awareness to innovators of the lived experiences of patients, and to initiate a discussion on how new medical devices and technologies can include the patient perspective.

This will bring us closer to developing medical devices and technologies that will truly make a difference and transform the lives of patients and their carers.

What will happen to my images after the event?

Please do not give us any identifiable information in the images you submit, we would discourage the submission of images that include identifiable information (i.e. home address, facial portraits, car registrations, or other identifiable markings).

After the event, some of the images will be featured in our National Meeting report, and most will be added to a page on our website.

If you are happy for us to use an image during the National Meeting, but would like to opt out of having your image on the website or meeting report, then please state your preference on the submission form.

Where should I submit my image to?

Please submit your image via this link - <https://form.jotformeu.com/92093825251356>

What if I have more questions?

If you have any more questions or would like to discuss this in more detail, please contact the Surgical MedTech Co-operative on surgicalmic@leeds.ac.uk.