

Taking part in research at Bolton Clarke

Bolton Clarke wants to work with the people we support to make sure that we keep improving the care and services we provide for you and others in the community. Research is an essential part of making these improvements. We assist clients, residents, families, carers and staff to safely take part in research.

Why should I participate in research?

Our research aims to develop new and better ways to support people to live their lives to their fullest. You can help us find new and different ways to deliver health and wellbeing services that support you and others in the community. Taking part in research is an opportunity for you to tell us what is good about our services and what could be improved. You can talk about what care and services you need now and help us to design new services into the future.

You might want to participate in research for many different reasons

- To help researchers understand the experience of older people and their health conditions
- To take a more active role in your healthcare
- To be heard and have your opinion valued
- To help others and those in the future

What does taking part in research involve?

Taking part is different for each research study.

You may be involved in:

- Working with researchers to design studies and programs to better meet your needs.
- Trying a new program or service, like social support or exercise.
- Talking to our researchers about your experiences through interviews or focus groups.
- Filling out a survey.
- Testing new devices or technologies.

You might wish to be involved in a study just once, or we might check in over a period of time.

You can have a look at some of our research we have done here.

To help you decide if you want to take part in a research study, the research team will explain the details of the research to you. You will also be given a Participant Information Sheet. It tells you all about the research project. It explains the processes involved with taking part. Knowing what is involved will help you decide if you want to take part. You can ask the research team any questions about the research. We also encourage you to talk to other people who are important to you before deciding to participate.

To take part in research, you must give 'informed consent'. Signing a consent form means you understand what being involved means, and that you have agreed to take part in the research.

Giving consent for another person

Our research may also involve people who may not be able to provide their own consent to participate. In this case, a substitute decision maker, responsible family member, guardian or authorised person may provide consent. This way, we can be sure that we do research with the people who need it the most, so we can help improve the care we provide to all of our community.

What if I do not want to participate?

Participating in research is totally voluntary. If you do not want to take part, you do not have to. It is completely your choice. Most importantly, whether you choose to be a part of a research study or not, it will not make any difference to your care or relationship with Bolton Clarke. If you agree to be a part of the study and then change your mind, you will still get the same care from Bolton Clarke. You can stop at any time by letting the research team know.

How can I get involved in research?

Here are some research studies that are currently looking for participants.

You can also ask Bolton Clarke staff for more information.

Bolton Clarke also has Community Partnership Groups where you can share your experiences of our services and help us better understand your needs. For more information, [click here](#).

How is research at Bolton Clarke approved?

Before a research study starts, it has to be ethically and scientifically reviewed. Expert researchers and an Ethics committee independently check that the research is scientifically sound, worthwhile and will be done safely. These steps are in place to protect the participants.

Your rights as a research participant

- It is your choice if you want to participate. You do not have to take part in research. Saying no will not affect your care or relationship with Bolton Clarke.
- You are given all the information about the study so you understand and can decide to participate or not.
- You can talk to other people who are important to you before deciding to participate.
- You can stop participating at any time and it will not make any difference to your care or relationship with Bolton Clarke.
- Your safety, wellbeing, rights, privacy and confidentiality will always be respected and supported by the research team.

What happens to the results of research?

We will publish and present the information we collect in reports or journals and at conferences. No one will be able to tell that you were part of the study, as we will combine your information with that of other people who also participated in the study. Your name will never be used.

At the end of the study we can provide you with a one page summary of what the study has found.

Our research at Bolton Clarke has helped many people by improving the care we provide. Research is an important part of making all of our lives better. Bolton Clarke is proud to have a Research Institute that supports implementation of better care for us all.