

## Community engagement

Community engagement involves working with the community to achieve long-term and sustainable outcomes, processes, relationships, discourse, decision-making, or implementation.

## RA CHAMP and the community

We respect the right of all community members to be informed, consulted, involved and empowered. We believe that patients are ‘engaged’ when they play a meaningful role in the deliberations, discussions, decision-making and/or implementation of their healthcare management. We also place a premium on fostering and enhancing trust as a critical element in long-term and sustainable engagement. Ultimately we hope to create a partnership that is healthy for our patients and community to effectively address healthcare problems related to rheumatoid arthritis.

## What are our principles for community engagement?

- Increase patients’ knowledge about health information regarding rheumatoid arthritis.
- Encourage patients to co-create additional knowledge material and understand and applying that knowledge in managing their arthritis.
- Use knowledge to improve the health of other members of the community with rheumatoid arthritis.
- Create future opportunities for patients to engage each other.
- Ensure that these opportunities and effective communication becomes a regular and on-going component of the project.



## Goals of the RA CHAMP project

- Develop true partnerships with our communities.
- Ensure good communication and take into account different values and priorities and help create more effective and culturally appropriate solutions.
- Improve our patient's knowledge and skills in learning to live with rheumatoid arthritis.
- Improve patient communication and decision making skill in the management of their arthritis.
- Empower and integrate patients from underserved and rural communities and provide tools to gain greater control over their arthritis and lives.
- Create local networks of community members. We believe that the more people know what is going on and are willing to work towards a goal, the more likely a community is to be successful in reaching its goals.
- Create opportunities for discussing progress of the RA CHAMP program.
- Improve communication and understanding and develop trust among our community.
- Increase the likelihood that our patients will commit to participate more in making decisions regarding their health.