

The [\*\*Patients Included conference charter\*\*](#) provides conference organizers a way to show that their organizations and their events are intentional about incorporating the experience of patients and caregivers as experts in living with their condition.

This explains how Virtually CAHSPR 2021 is aligning with the five Patients Included™ charter criteria:

**1. Patients or caregivers with experience relevant to the conference's central theme actively participate in the design and planning of the event, including the selection of themes, topics and speakers.**

The Planning Committee for Virtually CAHSPR 2021 includes a patient/patient advocate who actively participated in planning the conference, including the exploration of the theme and identification of topics and speakers. In addition, a patient advocate who provides direct input to the conference development is a director on the CAHSPR Board.

**2. Patients or caregivers with experience of the issues addressed by the event participate in its delivery, and appear in its physical audience.**

Patients are invited to participate in all aspects of Virtually CAHSPR 2021, including the submitting of posters and abstracts, participation in sessions and presentations at plenaries. CAHSPR continues to reach out to many patient and caregiver advocacy groups to encourage participation and attendance in the conference.

**3. Travel and accommodation expenses for patients or carers participating in the advertised programme are paid in full, in advance. Scholarships are provided by the conference organizers to allow patients or carers affected by the relevant issues to attend as delegates.**

Virtually CAHSPR 2021 is a fully virtual event so travel and accommodation support is not relevant. Patients and caregivers are encouraged to participate through a special registration rate. In parallel, CAHSPR has instituted a process to ensure that all patients and caregivers who want to attend the conference can do so.

**4. The disability requirements of participants are accommodated. All applicable sessions, breakouts, ancillary meetings and other programme elements are open to patient delegates.**

The conference organizers are working to ensure that Virtually CAHSPR 2021 can accommodate the disability requirements of participants and attendees.

**5. Access for virtual participants is facilitated, with free streaming video provided online wherever possible.**

The 2021 conference is completely virtual and is facilitated via social media utilizing the hashtag #VCAHSPR21. Any materials and pictures available post conference will also be shared publicly through social media and/or the CAHSPR website. Conference sessions will be videotaped and made available through the CAHSPR website and social media platforms.