Hello,

I am reaching out as a member of the SPOR Networks Task Force in Patient Engagement Compensation.  This Task Force is a collaborative effort among the SPOR Network Directors and/or Patient Engagement Leads and SPOR Network Patient partners to enable patient participation in SPOR research activities.  As the SPOR program has evolved, the Networks have encountered challenges with compensating patients.  In the summer of 2017, the CIHR SPOR Program issued a draft document entitled *“Compensation Guidelines for Engaging Patients as Partners in Research”*. However, on review of this document, the SPOR Chronic Disease Networks, ACCESS and PIHCIN SPOR Network Directors agreed that it does not address some of the key challenges arising in the real-world experience of offering compensation to patients.  Therefore the Network Directors decided to create this Task Force, with the purpose of identifying the key challenges associated with patient compensation and making recommendations to harmonize policies and procedures for administering remuneration among the SPOR Program.  We have notified CIHR SPOR leadership of this effort and have been keeping them updated during the process.

To ensure that we have all the information on patient compensation across the SPOR program our Task Force is reaching out to all the SPOR SUPPORT Units to understand the policies and procedures that each unit has developed in patient compensation.  Are you able to share this information for the XXXXX SPOR SUPPORT Unit?  This information will be presented to CIHR in a final report outlining the following: 1) patient compensation policies, both within SPOR and with other patient engagement groups; 2) guiding principles for compensating patient participating in the SPOR program; and 3) gaps and recommendations to harmonize patient compensation across the SPOR programs.  This report will be available to you once it has been approved by the Task Force.

If you could kindly respond by Friday February 9th, 2018 that would be greatly appreciated.  Thank-you in advance for your assistance in this important initiative.