



JCC Compensation Guide: Patient, Family, and Caregiver Partners

September 1, 2026

Table of Contents

Land Acknowledgement	3
About this Guide	3
How the Joint Collaborative Committees (JCCs) Engage Partners	3
JCC Patient, Family, and Caregiver Partner Engagement Activities	4
JCC Patient, Family, and Caregiver Partner Compensation Practices	4
Key Compensation Policy Information	5
1. When is the JCC Patient, Family, and Caregiver Partner Honoraria and Expense Policy applied?	5
2. What is the annual honoraria cap, and how is it applied?	5
3. What activities are considered eligible for compensation?	6
4. How is the budget for patient, family, and caregiver partner engagement determined?	6
5. How are claims submitted and payments made?	6
6. What tax implications should be considered?	6
Honoraria and Expense Reimbursement Claim Form	7
JCC Patient, Family, and Caregiver Partner Honoraria – Time Spent Engaging	7
Honoraria Rates	7
Confirming Available Honorarium	7
JCC Travel Expenses – Financial Support and Expense Reimbursement	8
JCC Travel Expense Policy	8
Patient, Family, and Caregiver Partner Travel Expense Support	9
Questions or Additional Support Requests	10
Special Thanks	10

Land Acknowledgement

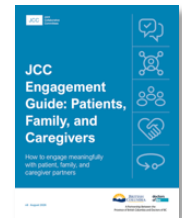
The Joint Collaborative Committees (JCCs), a partnership between the Doctors of BC and the Government of BC, humbly acknowledge the traditional territories of First Nations within British Columbia. Doctors of BC offices are situated on the unceded territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations, and the Ministry of Health head office is on the unceded territories of the ləkʷəŋən (Lekwungen) People, known today as the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations.

For the JCCs, acknowledging the traditional territories is an expression of cultural humility that recognizes our commitment to supporting the provision of culturally safe care to First Nations, Inuit, and Métis people in BC.

About this Guide

This compensation guide has been developed to provide JCC staff and those supporting JCC-funded initiatives and programs with information on JCC compensation practices for engagement with patient partners, family members, and caregivers. This document includes information on how the JCCs engage these partners, the JCC Patient, Family, and Caregiver Partner Honoraria and Travel Expense Policy (effective September 1, 2026), and the process for submitting honoraria and expense claims. It is recommended that readers review this guide in full.

JCC Engagement Guide: The compensation guide should be reviewed alongside the [JCC Engagement Guide: Patient, Family, and Caregiver Partners](#), which supports consistent, meaningful, and authentic engagement with people who have lived experience of the health care system. The [engagement guide](#) includes practices, principles, and guidance for coordinating and supporting engagements, and should be used as supplementary material when reviewing this compensation guide.



Terminology: While the terms patient, family member, and caregiver partner are used most frequently throughout these guides, other terminology, such as people with lived experience of the health care system, may be more relevant in different situations. Words like peer, public, or community may also be applicable. Similarly, some individuals may prefer terms such as advisor, advocate, or mentor rather than partner.

Indigenous Representatives: Indigenous Elders, Knowledge Keepers, and community representatives who attend or facilitate workshops, field experiences, program gatherings, and events to share their cultural knowledge and expertise are compensated in accordance with the guidelines outlined in the [Doctors of BC Guide for Respectful Indigenous Engagement](#). If an Indigenous representative participates in the capacity of a patient or family caregiver partner, they will be compensated using the patient, family, and caregiver partner honoraria rates outlined in this document. Payment processes when engaging any Indigenous representative, regardless of the honoraria rates offered, should be made in accordance with the cultural practices and payment processes outlined in the [Doctors of BC Guide for Respectful Indigenous Engagement](#).



How the Joint Collaborative Committees (JCCs) Engage Partners

For more than 20 years, the JCCs - a partnership between Doctors of BC and the Government of BC - have been working together to improve BC's health care system, engaging with and supporting collaboration between doctors, government, health authorities, patients, families, caregivers, and other health system partners.

The four JCCs include the Family Practice Services Committee (FPSC), the Shared Care Committee (SCC), the Specialist Services Committee (SSC), and the Joint Standing Committee on Rural Issues (JSC). For more information about the JCCs, read our [Getting to Know the JCCs](#) brochure or visit: www.collaborateonhealthbc.ca.

JCC Patient, Family, and Caregiver Partner Engagement Activities

Patient, family and caregiver partners, and those with lived experience contribute valuable experience, skills, perspectives, and knowledge to health system improvement. The JCCs and JCC-funded activities delivered through health system partner organizations engage these patient, family, and caregiver partners across a wide range of initiatives, programs, projects, events, meetings, and other activities.

Engagement is grounded in the [IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation](#) and may include, but is not limited to:

- Committee or working group meeting attendance.
- Focus groups, panels, interviews, and workshops.
- Literature, document, or policy review or development.
- Delivering presentations and/or facilitating meetings.

Staff leading JCC-funded activities are encouraged to consider how to engage diverse voices and perspectives in their work, recognizing that patient, family member, and caregiver partners bring distinct experiences and perspectives and do not represent a single population. It is also important to recognize that in some circumstances, engagements may directly seek the patient experience and voice, and/or patient partners may prefer to engage without their family member or caregivers present.

Engagement planning should consider and seek to reduce potential barriers to participation, including those related to recruitment approaches, location, format, timing, and accessibility. For more information on planning, coordinating, and supporting engagements, please refer to the [JCC Engagement Guide: Patient, Family, and Caregiver Partners](#).

JCC Patient, Family, and Caregiver Partner Compensation Practices

Travel Expenses: For in-person JCC-funded activities, patient, family, and caregiver partners are offered financial support or reimbursement for eligible travel expenses.

Honoraria: Effective September 1, 2026, JCC-funded meetings, events, projects, initiatives, and program activities are able to offer honoraria to recognize patient, family, and caregiver partners for time spent engaging in eligible JCC-funded activities. From April 1, 2027, all JCC-funded activities are required to offer honoraria to these partners*. Honoraria rates are tiered by engagement level. See the [Honoraria Rates](#) section for more information.

Annual Honoraria Cap: To support the inclusion of diverse voices and perspectives, compensation is available for up to 100 hours of honoraria per patient, family, or caregiver partner per year, for each JCC (FPSC, SCC, SSC, and JSC). The JCCs are responsible for tracking and monitoring engagement hours and are encouraged to create opportunities for new and diverse partner voices to participate.

Non-Financial Recognition: Financial compensation is one way to recognize the time and contributions of patient, family, and caregiver partners. Meaningful recognition should also be incorporated into engagement practices and may include expressing gratitude, demonstrating respect for partners' contributions, sharing how their input influenced the work, and tailoring recognition to individual preferences. For additional guidance on non-financial recognition practices, please refer to [Health Quality BC's Patient Partner Recognition and Appreciation Guide](#).

***Note:** The new JCC Patient, Family, and Caregiver Partner Honorarium policy is available for implementation starting September 1, 2026. Some JCC-funded activities may require additional time to implement the new framework. All JCC-funded activities will be required to offer honoraria to patient, family, and caregiver partners effective April 1, 2027. **There is no change to the travel expense policy, and financial support or reimbursement for eligible travel expenses should always be offered even if an honorarium is not offered (prior to April 1, 2027).**

Patient, Family, and Caregiver Partner Honoraria	
Effective September 1, 2026, the JCCs may offer honoraria for patient, family, and caregiver partners for time spent engaging with eligible JCC-funded activities. Compensation is offered for up to 100 hours annually, per partner, per JCC. From April 1, 2027, all JCC-funded activities must offer honoraria to patient, family, and caregiver partners.	Engagement may include: • Committee or working group meeting attendance. • Focus groups, workshops, panels, interviews. • Literature, document, or policy review or development. • Delivering presentations and/or facilitating meetings.
Expense Support or Reimbursement	
Per prior JCC policy, partners should be offered timely financial support for, or reimbursement of eligible expenses incurred when participating in JCC-funded activities, provided expenses comply with the policy. The full expense policy and current reimbursement rates can be viewed in the JCC Patient Partner Honoraria and Expenses Claim Form and Policy.	Expenses may include: • Travel costs such as taxi fare, mileage for distance traveled*, transit, ferries, rideshare, or airfare. • Parking costs. • Meals*. • Accommodation*. <i>*Based on the current Doctors of BC rates.</i>

Key Compensation Policy Information

1. When is the JCC Patient, Family, and Caregiver Partner Honoraria and Expense Policy applied?

- From September 1, 2026, all JCC-funded meetings, events, projects, initiatives, and program activities are able to offer honoraria to recognize patient, family, and caregiver partners for their time spent engaging in JCC programs and activities. Currently, offering honoraria is not mandatory.
- Offering honoraria will become mandatory for all JCC-funded activities effective April 1, 2027.
- Per previous JCC policy, financial support for, or reimbursement of, eligible travel expenses should be offered, even if a JCC-funded activity is not offering honoraria until April 1, 2027.
- If honorarium is supported by their parent committee, staff should inform partners of the compensation offered, including the expected total engagement hours, honoraria tier, and expense eligibility, prior to the engagement.
- Accepting payment is not mandatory, and a partner may choose to decline an honorarium or not submit their travel expenses for reimbursement.
- [Indigenous Elders, Knowledge Keepers, and community representatives](#) who are participating in cultural activities are compensated in accordance with the [Doctors of BC Guide for Respectful Indigenous Engagement](#).
- [Indigenous representatives participating in the capacity of a patient or family caregiver partner](#) will be compensated in accordance with the honoraria rates outlined in this JCC Compensation Guide: Patient, Family, and Caregiver Partners. In all cases, payment processes for Indigenous representatives should follow the [Doctors of BC Guide for Respectful Indigenous Engagement](#).

2. What is the annual honoraria cap, and how is it applied?

- To support the inclusion of diverse participant voices, each partner may receive up to 100 hours of honoraria per year per JCC, including prep time. Partners can engage in multiple activities funded across the JCCs.
- JCC staff are expected to centrally track and monitor patient, family, and caregiver partner honoraria hours and ensure this cap is not exceeded. Partners are not expected to track their own honoraria hours.
- If exceptions to this annual cap require consideration, organizing staff should contact the JCC lead and the signing authority. Engagement requirements and honoraria caps will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

3. *What activities are considered eligible for compensation?*

- If honorarium is supported by their parent committee, compensation is provided for participation in meetings, events, or other JCC-funded activities taking place on or after September 1, 2026. Activities prior to September 1, 2026, are not eligible for compensation.
- See the [Honoraria Rates](#) section below for the rates and examples of compensation-eligible activities.
- Meetings must be at least 30 minutes in duration to be eligible for honoraria payment. Honoraria will be paid in 15-minute increments thereafter.
- Participants who receive a salary and travel compensation for the JCC meeting, event, or activity as part of their regular job responsibilities are not eligible for reimbursement.
- **Travel time:** time spent travelling is not reimbursed.
- **Preparation time:** prep time may be reimbursed only with prior approval from a signing authority. Staff will determine and communicate in advance of the meeting whether prep time may be claimed and, if so, for how many hours. Prep hours will be counted within the [annual honoraria cap](#).

4. *How is the budget for patient, family, and caregiver partner engagement determined?*

- Staff are encouraged to budget for patient, family, and caregiver partner honoraria and expenses as part of the planning and budget allocations for meetings, events, projects, or initiative/program activities, using the included [Honoraria Rates](#).
- Engagement budgets should be reviewed and approved by the appropriate signing authority.
- During the transition period from September 1, 2026, to March 31, 2027, some JCC-funded activities may choose not to offer honoraria until April 1, 2027, to ensure sufficient time to establish the necessary operational processes and budgets.
- Staff organizing JCC-funded activities are responsible for confirming with patient, family and caregiver partners, in advance of the engagement, whether an honorarium will be offered.

5. *How are claims submitted and payments made?*

- Claims must be submitted to the organizer of the meeting, event, or activity. JCC-funded activities may be organized by JCC staff within Doctors of BC, or by staff supporting JCC-funded activities delivered through health system partner organizations – e.g. health authorities, Divisions of Family Practice, the Rural Coordination Centre of BC (RCCbc), etc.
- Claims submitted to JCC staff within Doctors of BC must include the [JCC Patient, Family, and Caregiver Partner Honoraria and Expenses Claim Form](#). Refer to the [claim form section](#) below for more information.
- For JCC activities organized by JCC staff within Doctors of BC, payments are made via Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) (direct deposit). Gift cards are not provided.
- Claimants who have not recently received a payment from Doctors of BC, or whose banking information has changed, must provide either a void cheque, a bank direct deposit form, or an [EFT Form](#) with their claim.
- Claim submission and payment processes for JCC-funded activities delivered through partner organizations may vary. This may include the claim form used, the submission process, and payment practices.

6. *What tax implications should be considered?*

- Honoraria may be considered taxable income by the Canadian Revenue Agency (CRA) and could impact government benefits, such as disability assistance, income assistance, and employment insurance (EI).
- Individuals receiving government benefits should be aware of how compensation may affect their taxable income and are encouraged to consult a tax advisor or refer to the CRA website for guidance and clarification.
- Doctors of BC does not issue tax slips or withhold deductions.
- Accepting payment is optional, and partners may choose to decline an honorarium.

Honoraria and Expense Reimbursement Claim Form

- All claims must include a signed [JCC Patient, Family, and Caregiver Partner Honoraria and Expenses Claim Form*](#). Forms must be completed in full and emailed to the event organizer.
- Electronic submissions, including scanned copies or high-quality photos, are accepted.
- Eligible expenses must include an itemized receipt unless otherwise specified. Refer to pages two and three of the [claim form](#) for the complete expense policy.
- Details about available financial support and travel expense reimbursement are outlined in the [JCC Travel Expenses](#) section below.
- In accordance with JCC finance policy, claims must be submitted to the meeting or event organizer along with all supporting documentation within **three (3) months** of the session date. Late submissions cannot be accepted or processed, unless under extenuating circumstances.



***Note:** Some partner organizations delivering JCC-funded programs or initiatives may use their own claim form, invoicing process, or other payment procedures in accordance with their organizational practices.

JCC Patient, Family, and Caregiver Partner Honoraria – Time Spent Engaging

Honoraria Rates

The approved JCC patient, family, and caregiver partner honoraria rates are tiered by engagement level. These rates are grounded in the [IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation](#), were developed with consideration of practices at other BC health system organizations and are aligned with JCC policies and practices.

Honoraria Rate	Engagement Tier	Description	Example of Engagement Activities
\$25/hour	Contributing	Partners serving in an advisory and consultative role. May be a one-time or recurring activity.	• Committee, working group, or focus group meetings or workshops • Interview panel participation • Document or policy review and feedback, including abstract review • Preparation time (pre-approval required): reviewing agendas, engagement-related emails, etc.
\$30/hour	Creating	Partners are primary authors of literature or resources, based on their lived/living experience.	• Document writing and development (examples: blogs, patient handbooks, articles, written storytelling, etc.)
\$50/hour	Leading	With minimal guidance partners are leading work through knowledge dissemination, teaching, and group facilitation.	• Presentation delivery, including storytelling • Chairing or co-chairing meetings • Facilitating or co-facilitating workshops
Honoraria are generally not provided to attend large group events.	Large Events • These types of events align with the ‘inform’ tier of the IAP2 spectrum and may offer opportunities for attendee learning, networking, and professional development. • If the JCCs formally sponsor a partner to attend an event like a conference, their registration fees and reasonable travel-related expenses should be reimbursed or pre-paid. • If a partner is invited to present or facilitate at an event, their time will be recognized with an honorarium as above.		• Conference, summit, symposium, etc. • Fair, expo, town hall etc. • Webinar participation (not presenting) • Social gatherings or educational events • Training (unless required as a pre-requisite to participate in a JCC-funded engagement opportunity) • Other activities where partners are informants or attendees rather than providing their lived experience insight

Confirming Available Honorarium

Staff should confirm the applicable engagement honoraria tier and anticipated number of hours with the patient, family, or caregiver partner in advance of the engagement. If the scope of engagement changes, staff should discuss the changes with the partner as soon as possible, agree in writing to a revised engagement scope, hours, and/or honoraria tier, and honour the revised terms.

Staff and patient, family, and caregiver partners are encouraged to contribute to a psychologically safe and respectful environment for engagement. For additional guidance on supporting meaningful engagement, please refer to the [JCC Engagement Guide: Patient, Family, and Caregiver Partners](#).

JCC Travel Expenses – Financial Support and Expense Reimbursement

If a patient, family, or caregiver partner is invited to attend an in-person JCC meeting, event, or program activity, they are eligible for financial support or reimbursement of travel expenses.

- Eligible expenses may include travel costs such as taxi fare, private vehicle mileage for distance travelled, public transit, ferries, airfare, parking costs, meals, and accommodation. The full up-to-date policy can be reviewed on page two of the [JCC Patient, Family, and Caregiver Partner Honoraria and Expenses Claim Form and Policy](#). Additional operational guidance is provided in the [Travel Expense Policy](#) section below.
- Patient, family, and caregiver partners should be informed of eligible expenses in advance of the engagement.
- Pre-booked travel expenses, such as flights and accommodation, should be pre-approved and, where possible, paid for by the event or meeting organizers.
- Reimbursement is available only for out-of-pocket expenses; expenses covered through loyalty programs, such as points, are not eligible.
- Partners should submit additional out-of-pocket expenditures for reimbursement using the [honoraria and expenses claim form](#), or an alternative claim form or invoicing process, where directed by the third-party health system partner delivering the JCC-funded activity.
- Claim forms must be submitted within **three (3) months** of the date of the meeting, event or activity to the applicable organizer.

Note: It is recommended that patient partners discuss available financial or travel booking support, accessibility requirements, or eligibility questions with the event or meeting organizers before coordinating travel.

JCC Travel Expense Policy

The full expense policy and up-to-date reimbursement amounts can be viewed on pages two and three of the [JCC Patient, Family, and Caregiver Partner Honoraria and Expenses Claim Form and Policy](#).

- Please review the policy information in full before coordinating travel.
- Additional information on booking and claiming travel expenses is included in the [Patient, Family, and Caregiver Partner Travel Expense Support](#) section below.



Patient, Family, and Caregiver Partner Travel Expense Support

The following information outlines additional accommodations and processes available to support partners with travel-related expenses. This guidance supplements the full expense policy, outlined on pages two and three of the [JCC Patient, Family, and Caregiver Partner Honoraria and Expenses Claim Form and Policy](#).

Expense	Travel Expense Support for Patient, Family, and Caregiver Partners
Meals	- Meal per diem is available for meals purchased while attending the event, or while travelling to and from the event to a maximum of \$100 per day. Meals are reimbursed at a standard rate of breakfast \$20, lunch \$30, dinner \$50. - Partners are responsible for paying for meals directly and may claim the applicable meal per diem when submitting the expense form. Receipts are not required. - Where a meal is provided at no cost to the partner, such as a catered breakfast or lunch at a meeting or event, no claim for that meal can be made.
Accommodation	- Patient, family, and caregiver partners should use hotel room block codes or booking links provided by the meeting or event organizer where available. Where possible, staff will ensure accommodation costs are billed directly to the JCCs to minimize out-of-pocket expenses for partners. - If a room block booking code is not available, organizing staff should consider alternative room booking and direct billing payment options to minimize out-of-pocket expenses. - A credit card may be required at hotel check-in for incidental charges. If a patient partner does not have access to a credit card, JCC staff can assist with alternative arrangements, including coordinating the use of a corporate credit card. - Personal or incidental room charges, such as movie rentals, mini-bar purchases, or other non-eligible expenses are the responsibility of the partner. - Exceptions to the accommodation policy will be considered on a case-by-case basis and must be approved in writing in advance of the engagement by a signing authority.
Flights	- Once pre-approval is provided by JCC staff, flights can be booked by the traveler and submitted for reimbursement to the JCCs. - Alternatively, flights can be booked through the event or meeting organizer and billed directly to the JCCs. Please contact staff to discuss available options. - Checked baggage can be reimbursed (one checked bag only). If no receipt is available, a screenshot showing the airline additional baggage check-in charge may be submitted as supporting documentation. - Other upgrades, such as extra baggage, seat upgrades, travel insurance, and airport lounges must be paid by the traveller and are not eligible for reimbursement.
Additional Travel	- Additional travel e.g. ferries, taxis, and car rental should be booked by the traveller and claimed for reimbursement using the claim form. Receipts must be provided. - Alternatively, additional travel can be arranged by the meeting or event staff on behalf of a patient partner and directly billed to the JCCs, if required. Please contact staff to discuss available options.
Vehicle and Mileage Expenses	- Private vehicle mileage can be reimbursed at the rate outlined in the JCC Patient, Family, and Caregiver Partner Honoraria and Expenses Claim Form and Policy. - Participants should include the round-trip mileage from their home address to the meeting or event location on the claim form. No receipt is required. - Some meetings or events may provide complimentary parking or parking validation. If free parking is not provided, eligible out-of-pocket parking costs will be reimbursed. Parking receipts must be retained and submitted as part of the claim form.

Questions or Additional Support Requests

Questions about available honoraria and travel expenses, as well as requests for additional information or support, should be directed to the organizer of the JCC meeting, event, or activity. For policy-related inquiries, please contact JCC@doctorsofbc.ca.

Special Thanks

Thank you to our valued patient partners, JCC Co-Chairs and staff, and health system partner organizations for contributing their time, insights, experience, and expertise to the development and review of this compensation framework and guide.

1665 West Broadway
Vancouver, BC V6J 5A4
+1 604 736 5551
+1 800 665 2262
JCC@doctorsofbc.ca
collaborateonhealthbc.ca

The Joint Collaborative Committees are a partnership
between Doctors of BC and the BC Government