

PECARN Guide for Enhancing Diverse Perspectives Plan (EDP)

Purpose: The purpose of this document is to provide guidance to PECARN investigators as they prepare EDP documents. However, these principles may be applied to ALL grant applications.

Use: This document should be used early in the concept development process, as many of the components it references must be planned and executed during study design and team recruitment. It is a *strong recommendation* of the PECARN Disparities Working Group and nodal Health Equity leaders that this document be utilized in consultation with or by a study-specific equity scientist. Just as a study's statistical methodology and plan are best developed with the consultation of a statistician, plans for ensuring equity, enhancing diversity, and addressing or avoiding disparities should employ the expertise of an equity scientist. Furthermore, just as a statistician should be involved from study development through completion and publication to ensure appropriate data collection, analysis, and reporting, an equity scientist can best support an equitable design strategy, inclusive recruitment and retention practices, and thoughtful reporting of sociodemographic study components when they are part of the team throughout a study. We encourage investigators in the network to consider engaging an equity scientist, at a minimum as a contributing author, but ideally as a funded member of the team. Please see the [Disparities Working Group roster](#) for members who are interested in partnering as equity scientists.

Below are key components to consider when developing your EDP:

Component	Rationale	EDP Recommendation and Considerations
Team Diversity	Having an investigator team that has diverse experiences and perspectives elevates the quality of the proposed science by ensuring multiple viewpoints are considered during study development and implementation.	<p><u>Background/Training/Role</u>: depending on the topic of study, consider engaging individuals from different professional groups (pharmacy, nursing, child life, social work, etc.) and at varying levels of training; consider engaging trainees and/or early-stage investigators.</p> <p><u>Identities</u>: strive to assemble a team of investigators who are diverse in their identities including race, ethnicity, gender, language, and other backgrounds and experiences.</p> <p><u>Experience</u>: consider engaging team members with experience in different disciplines (equity science, statistics, dissemination, etc.); consider engaging a team member with lived experience of the condition or disease of focus.</p>
Site Diversity	Ensuring that participating sites represent diverse potential participant populations helps to ensure that studies are inclusive and generalizable.	<p><u>Geographic Diversity</u>: strive to select sites from different geographic regions.</p> <p><u>Rural vs Urban</u>: strive to include patients from rural and urban areas in enrollment plan.</p> <p><u>Patient Population</u>: strive to select sites with differing patient populations in terms of race, ethnicity, and language for care. We recommend you do not exclude patients who use languages other than English and utilize site demographics to identify highly used languages and professionally translate study documents.</p>
Community/Patient/Family Engagement	Engaging community partners and patient stakeholders early in study development and through implementation is critical to ensuring that studies are patient centered and feasible.	<p>At a minimum, it is advisable to have patient-facing materials (including recruitment and consent materials) reviewed by a patient/family advisory board or similar group, with compensation budgeted for that service, at the start of a study.</p> <p>Ideally, an advisory board or paid community-member consultant(s) would also remain engaged throughout the study to partner with the study's equity scientist in reviewing issues related to inclusive enrollment and retention, protocol deviation reviews, and any new patient-facing material(s).</p> <p>NOTE: It is important to adequately compensate advising groups and consultants for their expertise, whether by hourly compensation or via gift cards, meals, and/or transportation vouchers for those for whom increased reportable income may result in personal challenges (such as change in qualification for support services) and whose engagement is below mandated reporting thresholds for your institution.</p>