

Patient Perceptions of Inpatient Blood Testing: A Co-Designed Qualitative Study

Surakshya Pokharel^{1,2}, Kimberly Strain³, Anshula Ambasta^{2,4}

BACKGROUND

- Overuse of inpatient hospital blood testing contributes to patient discomfort & healthcare waste
- Patient engagement with the blood testing process can help reduce over-testing
- Better understanding of patient experiences can lead to better patient engagement & consequently, reduction of over-testing

OBJECTIVES

- To understand patient experiences of the inpatient blood testing process

PATIENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (PAC)

- Included patient research partners, academic researchers & members of AbSPORU Patient Engagement Team
- Collaborated on study design, data collection/interpretation & knowledge translation

METHODS

- Semi-structured interviews by phone or Zoom with participants in Alberta & BC (n=13 patients, n=1 family member, n=2 caregivers)
- NVivo12 & Braun & Clark's six-phase guide utilized for thematic analysis

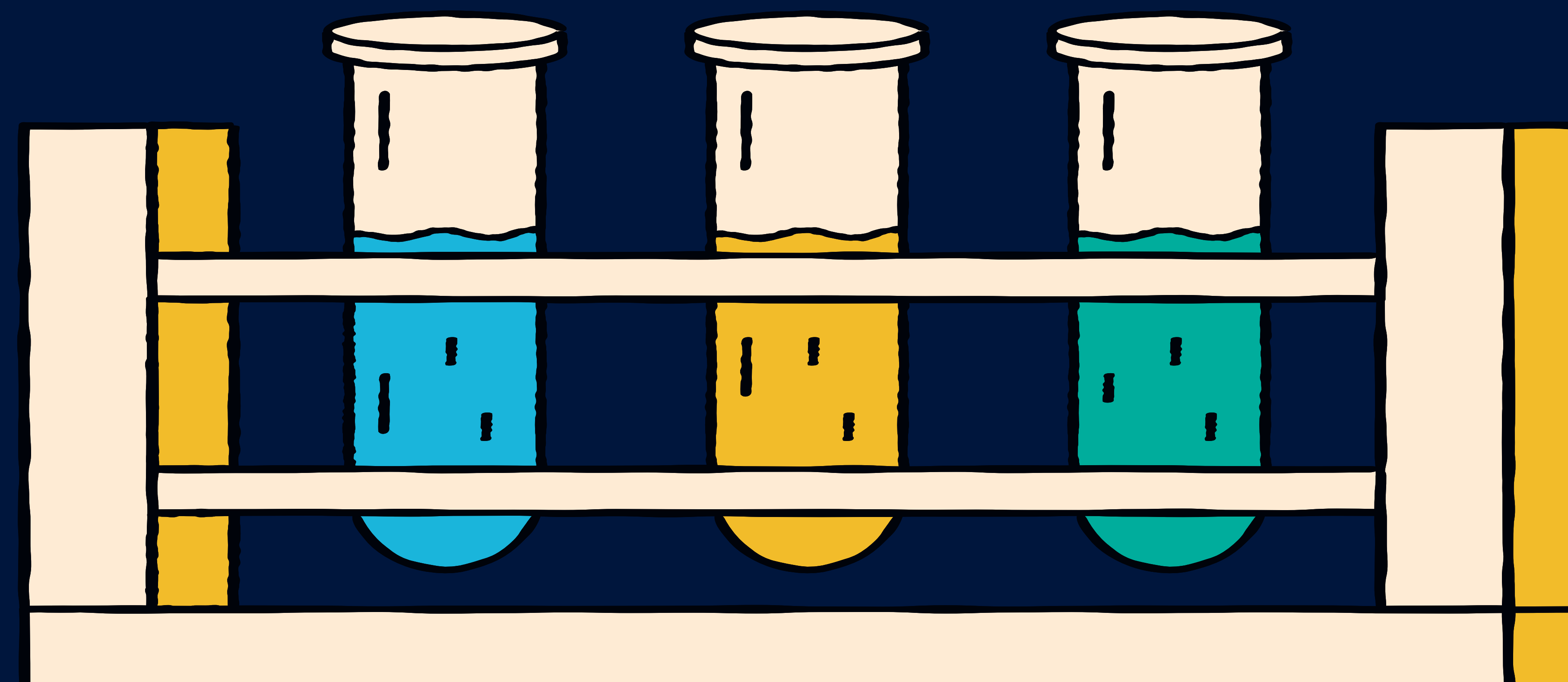
RESULTS

Four Themes identified:

1. Patients need information from healthcare teams about expected blood testing processes
2. Blood draw processes should consider patient comfort a& preference
3. Patients want information from their healthcare teams about the rationale & frequency of blood testing
4. Patients need information on how their testing results affect their medical care

Current inpatient blood testing processes do **not** facilitate shared decision making & patient engagement.

Patient engagement can be improved through an **empathetic healthcare team with clear communication** about the testing process.



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EDI & SGBA+

Integration/Considerations

- Composition of the PAC included women, members of visible minorities, various age ranges & research experience levels
- Academic researchers completed basic EDI module
- Recruitment strategy designed to assist in the balanced inclusion of members of different sex, gender, members of visible minorities, Indigenous peoples, & persons with disabilities. 70% of research participants were women
- Qualitative analysis not set up to have gender-related correlations
- This research is part of a larger study, *Re-Purposing the Ordering of Routine Laboratory Tests (RePORT)*. SGBA+ will be considered & integrated for all future work through RePORT

"I didn't feel like it was some kind of inclusive experience...I felt like I was just there, & they came in & it was hey we're checking your blood."
(Patient 3)

REFERENCES

- Government of Canada CIHR. Patient engagement. Available at: <https://cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/45851.html> Accessed August 15, 2023.
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AFFILIATIONS

1. Ward of the 21st Century, University of Calgary, & Calgary Zone of Alberta Health Services
2. Department of Medicine, Cumming School of Medicine
3. University of Calgary Strategy for Patient Oriented Research (SPOR) Support Unit, Alberta
4. University of British Columbia, Department of Anesthesia, Pharmacology & Therapeutics, Therapeutics Initiative