

2024 Patient and Family Advisory Council Annual Report Form

The survey questions concern PFAC activities in fiscal year 2024 only: (July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024).

Section 1: General Information

NOTE: Massachusetts law requires every hospital to make a report about its PFAC activities publicly available by October 1 each year. Submitting the report to Betsy Lehman Center for inclusion on its website will fulfill that requirement.

1. Hospital Name: Massachusetts General Hospital

2. PFAC Name: General PFAC

2a. Which best describes your PFAC?

- We are the only PFAC at a single hospital – skip to #3 below
- We are a PFAC for a system with several hospitals – skip to #2C below
- We are one of multiple PFACs at a single hospital
- We are one of several PFACs for a system with several hospitals – skip to #2C below
- Other (Please describe):

2b. Will another PFAC at your hospital also submit a report?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

2c. Will another hospital within your system also submit a report?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

3. Staff PFAC Co-Chair Contact:

3a. Name and Title: Helen Scarr

3b. Email: hscarr@mgb.org

3c. Phone: 617-724-3312

Not applicable

4. Patient/Family PFAC Co-Chair Contact:

4a. Name and Title: Julie DeCosta

4b. Email: juliemdecosta@gmail.com

4c. Phone:

Not applicable

5. Is the Staff PFAC Co-Chair also the Staff PFAC Liaison/Coordinator?

- Yes – skip to #7 (Section 1) below
- No – describe below in #6

6. Staff PFAC Liaison/Coordinator Contact:

6a. Name and Title:

6b. Email:

6c. Phone:

Not applicable

Section 2: PFAC Organization

7. This year, the PFAC recruited new members through the following approaches (check all that apply):

- Case managers/care coordinators
- Community based organizations
- Community events
- Facebook, Twitter, and other social media
- Hospital banners and posters
- Hospital publications
- Houses of worship/religious organizations
- Patient satisfaction surveys
- Promotional efforts within institution to patients or families
- Promotional efforts within institution to providers or staff
- Recruitment brochures
- Word of mouth/through existing members
- Other (Please describe):
- N/A – we did not recruit new members in FY 2024

8. Total number of staff members on the PFAC: 5

9. Total number of patient or family member advisors on the PFAC: 19

10. The name of the hospital department supporting the PFAC is: Office of the Chief Medical Officer, Department of Patient and Family Relations

11. The hospital position of the PFAC Staff Liaison/Coordinator is: Senior Manager, Patient and Family Relations

12. The hospital provides the following for PFAC members to encourage their participation in meetings (check all that apply):

- Annual gifts of appreciation
- Assistive services for those with disabilities
- Conference call phone numbers or “virtual meeting” options
- Meetings outside 9am-5pm office hours
- Parking, mileage, or meals
- Payment for attendance at annual PFAC conference
- Payment for attendance at other conferences or trainings
- Provision/reimbursement for childcare or elder care
- Stipends
- Translator or interpreter services
- Other (Please describe):
- N/A

Section 3: Community Representation

The PFAC regulations require that patient and family members in your PFAC be “representative of the community served by the hospital.” If you are not sure how to answer the following questions, contact your community relations office or check “don’t know.”

13. Our hospital’s catchment area is geographically defined as: Urban and Suburban

Don’t know

14. The racial and ethnic groups in these areas include (please provide percentages; if you are unsure of the percentages check “don’t know”):

	RACE						ETHNICITY	
	% American Indian or Alaska Native	% Asian	% Black or African American	% Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	% White	% Other	% Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin	
14a. Our defined catchment area								<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Don’t know
14b. Patients the hospital provided care to in FY 2024	.1%	4.3%	6.8%	0.0%	71.2%	.8%	10.8%	<input type="checkbox"/> Don’t know
14c. The PFAC patient and family advisors in FY 2024			24%	4%	73%			<input type="checkbox"/> Don’t know

15. The languages spoken in these areas include (please provide percentages; if you are unsure of the percentages select “don’t know”):

	Limited English Proficiency (LEP)	
	%	
15a. Patients the hospital provided care to in FY 2024	11%	<input type="checkbox"/> Don’t know
15b. PFAC patient and family advisors in FY 2024	0%	<input type="checkbox"/> Don’t know

15c. What percentage of patients that the hospital provided care to in FY 2024 spoke the following as their primary language?

	%
Spanish	6.3%
Portuguese	0.2%
Chinese	0.4%
Haitian Creole	1.2%
Vietnamese	0.1%
Russian	0.7%
French	0.0%
Mon-Khmer/Cambodian	0.1%
Italian	0.4%
Arabic	0.1%
Albanian	0.1%
Cape Verdean	

Don't know

15d. In FY 2024, what percentage of PFAC patient and family advisors spoke the following as their primary language?

	%
Spanish	
Portuguese	
Chinese	
Haitian Creole	
Vietnamese	
Russian	
French	
Mon-Khmer/Cambodian	
Italian	
Arabic	
Albanian	
Cape Verdean	

Don't know

16. The PFAC is undertaking the following activities to ensure appropriate representation of our membership in comparison to our patient population or catchment area:

Section 4: PFAC Operations

17. Our process for developing and distributing agendas for the PFAC meetings (choose):

- Staff develops the agenda and sends it out prior to the meeting
- Staff develops the agenda and distributes it at the meeting
- PFAC members develop the agenda and send it out prior to the meeting
- PFAC members develop the agenda and distribute it at the meeting
- PFAC members and staff develop agenda together and send it out prior to the meeting. (Please describe below in #17a)
- PFAC members and staff develop agenda together and distribute it at the meeting. (Please describe below in #17a)
- Other process (Please describe below in #17b)
- N/A – the PFAC does not use agendas

17a. If staff and PFAC members develop the agenda together, please describe the process:

The General PFAC Executive Committee, which includes the patient and staff co-chairs, staff members (3) and General PFAC members (2), meet each month after the monthly General PFAC meeting to debrief and plan the next monthly meeting agenda.

17b. If other process, please describe:

18. The PFAC goals and objectives for 2024 were: (check the best choice):

- Developed by staff alone
- Developed by staff and reviewed by PFAC members
- Developed by PFAC members and staff
- N/A – we did not have goals for FY 2024 – **Skip to #20**

19. The PFAC had the following goals and objectives for 2024:

1. Influence and align General PFAC activities with strategic imperatives of the hospital/system, including focus on equity and inclusion and adaptation to health care landscape changed by the pandemic
2. Promote General PFAC member participation on committees across the hospital/system, so as to integrate the patient/family perspective in the shaping of services, programs, and initiatives.
3. Continue to recruit General PFAC members who represent the diverse population of the patients served by Mass General.
4. Enhance General PFAC member understandings of hospital/system infrastructure and operations to facilitate capacities to contribute as Advisors.
5. Continue to expand awareness of the General PFAC across the hospital/system.
6. Advance and support high quality, coordinated communications between patients and their care team members.

20. Please list any subcommittees that your PFAC has established:

1. Patient Education – established a long-term partnership with the MGH Maxwell & Eleanor Blum Patient and Family Learning Center; we have collaborated on several patient-facing projects for nearly 7 years.
- 2.

21. How does the PFAC interact with the hospital Board of Directors (check all that apply):

- PFAC submits annual report to Board
- PFAC submits meeting minutes to Board
- Action items or concerns are part of an ongoing “Feedback Loop” to the Board
- PFAC member(s) attend(s) Board meetings
- Board member(s) attend(s) PFAC meetings
- PFAC member(s) are on board-level committee(s)
- Other (Please describe):
- N/A – the PFAC does not interact with the Hospital Board of Directors

22. Describe the PFAC’s use of email, listservs, or social media for communication:

- N/A – We don’t communicate through these approaches

We mainly use email and Drop Box folders. We also have a public General PFAC website.

Section 5: Orientation and Continuing Education

23. Number of new PFAC members this year: 1

24. Orientation content included (check all that apply):

- “Buddy program” with experienced members
- Check-in or follow-up after the orientation
- Concepts of patient- and family-centered care (PFCC)
- General hospital orientation
- Health care quality and safety
- History of the PFAC
- Hospital performance information
- Immediate “assignments” to participate in PFAC work
- Information on how PFAC fits within the organization’s structure
- In-person training
- Massachusetts law and PFACs
- Meeting with hospital staff
- Patient engagement in research
- PFAC policies, member roles and responsibilities
- Skills training on communication, technology, and meeting preparation
- Other (Please describe below in #24a)
- N/A – the PFAC members do not go through a formal orientation process

24a. If other, describe:

25. The PFAC received training on the following topics:

- Concepts of patient- and family-centered care (PFCC)
- Health care quality and safety measurement
- Health literacy
- A high-profile quality issue in the news in relation to the hospital (e.g., simultaneous surgeries, treatment of VIP patients, mental/behavioral health patient discharge, etc.)
- Hospital performance information
- Patient engagement in research
- Types of research conducted in the hospital
- Other (Please describe below in #25a)
- N/A – the PFAC did not receive training

25a. If other, describe:

Section 6: FY 2024 PFAC Impact and Accomplishments

The following information concerns PFAC activities in the fiscal year 2024.

26. Please share the following information on the PFACs accomplishments and impacts:

26a. What were the three greatest accomplishments/impacts of the PFAC related to providing feedback or perspective?

Accomplishment/Impact	Idea came from (choose one)
<p>Accomplishment/Impact 1: Spiritual Care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Identified need for Spiritual Care in the Ambulatory Cancer Center b. Worked on a proposal to offer Spiritual Care and suggestions on how to fund / budget for a position with Donna Blagdan, Director of Spiritual Care c. Engaged with Sr. Leaders: Development Office, LVC, and Cancer Center PFAC for endorsement and support of the proposal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Patient/family advisors of the PFAC <input type="checkbox"/> Department, committee, or unit that requested PFAC input
<p>Accomplishment/Impact 2: Legacy, Vision, Commitment (formerly Ladies Visiting Committee)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Introduced LVC to GPFAC and GPFAC to LVC b. Shared feedback as to how we can help each other c. LVC engaged with Spiritual Care in Ambulatory Cancer Center proposal focused on funding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Patient/family advisors of the PFAC <input type="checkbox"/> Department, committee, or unit that requested PFAC input
<p>Accomplishment/Impact #3: Internal Review Board (IRB)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. GPFAC patient only patient member of IRB b. Provide feedback and input at regular meetings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Patient/family advisors of the PFAC <input type="checkbox"/> Department, committee, or unit that requested PFAC input

c. Patient voice is involved in critical decisions for the institution	
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26b. What were the three greatest accomplishments/impacts of the PFAC related to influencing the institution's financial and programmatic decisions?

Accomplishment/Impact	Idea came from (choose one)
Accomplishment/Impact 1: Strategic Plan a. Prep work on GPFAC 5-year Strategic Plan b. Content and facilitator identified c. Paused due to MGB transformation, however, will be key to the future of PFACs and programmatic decision-making once the determination is made to proceed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Patient/family advisors of the PFAC <input type="checkbox"/> Department, committee, or unit that requested PFAC input
Accomplishment/Impact 2: Built a relationship with the Chief Medical Officer and Chief Nurse a. Understand key goals and objectives b. Aligned GPFAC work to organizational goals	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Patient/family advisors of the PFAC <input type="checkbox"/> Department, committee, or unit that requested PFAC input
Accomplishment/Impact 3: Joint MGH PFAC meetings a. Bi-annual joint PFAC meetings b. Allowed for alignment on key priorities (MGB Strategic Plan and MGB Research Transformation)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Patient/family advisors of the PFAC <input type="checkbox"/> Department, committee, or unit that requested PFAC input

26c. What were the three greatest accomplishments/impacts of the PFAC related leading/co-leading programs and initiatives?

Accomplishment/Impact	Idea came from (choose one)
Accomplishment/Impact 1: Joint MGH PFAC meetings a. Bi-annual joint PFAC meetings b. Allowed for alignment on key priorities (MGB Strategic Plan and MGB Research transformation)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Patient/family advisors of the PFAC <input type="checkbox"/> Department, committee, or unit that requested PFAC input
Accomplishment/Impact 2: PFR presentation to Heart and Vascular PFAC and Cancer Center PFAC a. GPFAC Co-Chairs participated in discussion b. PFR transformation initiatives, data gathering, understanding and sharing current organizational structures c. Determined the objectives and timeline of the project and next steps	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Patient/family advisors of the PFAC <input type="checkbox"/> Department, committee, or unit that requested PFAC input

Accomplishment/Impact 3: N/A

- Patient/family advisors of the PFAC
- Department, committee, or unit that requested PFAC input

27. The five greatest challenges the PFAC had in FY 2024:

Challenge 1: MGB Transformation

Challenge 2: Lack of Committee Engagement by MGH staff, while PFAs want to engage.

Challenge 3: Pause on Strategic Plan

Challenge 4: Pause on recruitment of new PFAs

Challenge 5: Unknowns related to future alignment of PFACs across the system

N/A – we did not encounter any challenges in FY 2024

28. The PFAC members serve on the following hospital-wide committees, projects, task forces, work groups, or Board committees:

- Behavioral Health/Substance Use
- Bereavement
- Board of Directors
- Care Transitions
- Code of Conduct
- Community Benefits
- Critical Care
- Culturally Competent Care
- Discharge Delays
- Diversity & Inclusion
- Drug Shortage
- Eliminating Preventable Harm
- Emergency Department Patient/Family Experience Improvement
- Ethics
- Institutional Review Board (IRB)
- Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) – Sensitive Care
- Patient Care Assessment
- Patient Education
- Patient and Family Experience Improvement
- Pharmacy Discharge Script Program
- Quality and Safety
- Quality/Performance Improvement
- Surgical Home
- Other (Please describe): Continuum Project - Allows PFAs to engage in discussions on how to best support families in talking about serious illness, palliative care, and end-of-life planning, in a meaningful way.
- Other (Please describe): Hospitalization through a Disability Lens - a collaboration between the General PFAC, CODA, and Patient Care Services. The goal is to reduce care experience disparities

and optimize patient safety, quality and overall experience of patients with disabilities throughout their hospitalization. The group is co-designing interventions to improve admission to the unit for patients with disabilities.

- Other (Please describe): Equity Policy and Practice Review Committee- reviews policies and practices to identify and eliminate structural racism that may be embedded in these policies and practices.

N/A – the PFAC members do not serve on these – **Skip to #30**

29. How do members on these hospital-wide committees or projects report back to the PFAC about their work?

Periodically during the year, members serving on these committees provide updates to the General PFAC at monthly meetings.

30. The PFAC provided advice or recommendations to the hospital on the following areas mentioned in the Massachusetts law (check all that apply):

- Institutional Review Boards
- Patient and provider relationships
- Patient education on safety and quality matters
- Quality improvement initiatives
- N/A – the PFAC did not provide advice or recommendations to the hospital on these areas in FY 2024

31. PFAC members participated in the following activities mentioned in the Massachusetts law (check all that apply):

- Advisory boards/groups or panels
- Award committees
- Co-trainers for clinical and nonclinical staff, in-service programs, and health professional trainees
- Search committees and in the hiring of new staff
- Selection of reward and recognition programs
- Standing hospital committees that address quality
- Task forces
- N/A – the PFAC members did not participate in any of these activities

32. The hospital shared the following public hospital performance information with the PFAC (check all that apply):

32a. Complaints and serious events

- Complaints and investigations reported to Department of Public Health (DPH)
- Healthcare-Associated Infections (National Healthcare Safety Network)
- Patient complaints to hospital
- Serious Reportable Events reported to Department of Public Health (DPH)

32b. Quality of care

- High-risk surgeries (such as aortic valve replacement, pancreatic resection)
- Joint Commission Accreditation Quality Report (such as asthma care, immunization, stroke care)
- Medicare Hospital Compare (such as complications, readmissions, medical imaging)
- Maternity care (such as C-sections, high risk deliveries)

32c. Resource use, patient satisfaction, and other

- Inpatient care management (such as electronically ordering medicine, specially trained doctors for ICU patients)
- Patient experience/satisfaction scores (e.g. HCAHPS - Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems)
- Resource use (such as length of stay, readmissions)
- Other (Please describe):
- N/A – the hospital did not share performance information with the PFAC – **Skip to #35**

33. Please explain why the hospital shared only the data you checked in Q 32 above: We are on hold, pending MGB PFAC re-design implementation. Will likely chair complaint/grievance data in 2025.

34. Please describe how the PFAC was engaged in discussions around these data in #32 above and any resulting quality improvement initiatives: Data were shared with the PFAC for awareness of improvement interventions and their impact on inpatient perception of unit responsiveness.

35. The PFAC participated in activities related to the following state or national quality of care initiatives (check all that apply):

35a. National Patient Safety Hospital Goals

- Identifying patient safety risks
- Identifying patients correctly
- Preventing infection
- Preventing mistakes in surgery
- Using medicines safely
- Using alarms safely

35b. Prevention and errors

- Care transitions (e.g., discharge planning, passports, care coordination, and follow up between care settings)
- Checklists
- Electronic Health Records –related errors
- Hand-washing initiatives
- Human Factors Engineering
- Fall prevention
- Team training
- Safety

35c. Decision-making and advanced planning

- End of life planning (e.g., hospice, palliative, advanced directives)
- Health care proxies
- Improving information for patients and families
- Informed decision making/informed consent

35d. Other quality initiatives

- Disclosure of harm and apology
- Integration of behavioral health care
- Rapid response teams

- Other (Please describe): Input in Care (Inpatient initiative to partner with patients in their care)
- N/A – the PFAC did not work in quality-of-care initiatives

36. Were any members of your PFAC engaged in advising on research studies?

- Yes
- No – **Skip to #40 (Section 6)**

37. In what ways are members of your PFAC engaged in advising on research studies? Are they:

- Educated about the types of research being conducted
- Involved in study planning and design
- Involved in conducting and implementing studies
- Involved in advising on plans to disseminate study findings and to ensure that findings are communicated in understandable, usable ways
- Involved in policy decisions about how hospital researchers engage with the PFAC (e.g. they work on a policy that says researchers have to include the PFAC in planning and design for every study)

38. How are members of your PFAC approached about advising on research studies?

- Researchers contact the PFAC
- Researchers contact individual members, who report back to the PFAC
- Other (Please describe below in #38a)
- None of our members are involved in research studies

38a. If other, describe: IRB – PFA serves as non-scientist reviewer

39. About how many studies have your PFAC members advised on?

- 1 or 2
- 3-5
- More than 5
- None of our members are involved in research studies

Section 7: PFAC Annual Report

*We **strongly** suggest that all PFAC members approve reports prior to submission.*

40. The following individuals approved this report prior to submission (list name and indicate whether staff or patient/family advisor):

Carrie Stamos, PFA
Tracy Aurigemma, PFA
Julie DeCosta, PFA and Patient Co-Chair
Helen Scarr, Staff co-chair

41. Describe the process by which this PFAC report was completed and approved at your institution (choose the best option).

- Collaborative process: staff and PFAC members both wrote and/or edited the report
- Staff wrote report and PFAC members reviewed it

- Staff wrote report.
- Other (Please describe):

Massachusetts law requires that each hospital's annual PFAC report be made available to the public upon request. Answer the following questions about the report:

42. We post the report online.

- Yes, link:
- No

43. We provide a phone number or e-mail address on our website to use for requesting the report.

- Yes, phone number/e-mail address:
- No

44. Our hospital has a link on its website to a PFAC page.

- Yes, link:
- No, we don't have such a section on our website.