The Patient Safety Guide is a project to develop a resource for patients and carers to support them to improve their patient safety. The Guide will address the key patient safety questions that people have and the ways in which patients and carers can optimise their involvement in their care.

Patients, carers, general practitioners and pharmacists are working with us to develop the guide and materials to support its use. We have adapted an approach called the experience based co-design approach which brings together people with different experiences and expertise to turn experience into action about how to improve patient safety. We have both a face-to-face patient and public involvement group as well as a virtual stakeholder involvement group which includes patients, carers, pharmacists and general practitioners to help us optimise the acceptability of the guide.

We have also run a co-design event where everyone came together to discuss primary care patient safety and practical ways to improve it which could be included in the patient safety handbook. The sessions were co-facilitated by members of the patient and public involvement group. Some of the key areas that were raised during the discussions were:

- Individuals taking responsibility for their care
- The importance of communication across primary care and with patients
- Access and understanding what happens behind the scenes
- Challenging practitioner assumptions about patients’ knowledge of systems

Feedback from the co-design event included:
- “Great meeting actual GPs and hearing their side of things.”
- “It made me appreciate the problems from both sides”
- “It has helped me to look at patient safety in primary care a more analytical light. Helping me to identify more patient safety issues and think of possible solutions.”
- “Interesting and informative.”

The project is led by Dr Rebecca Morris, a Research Fellow in the Greater Manchester PSTRC.