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ACADEMIC HEALTH SCIENCE CENTRE

TIP SHEETS SERIES:
SUPPORTING HEALTHCARE RESEARCH
WITH COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY

Consumer and Community Involvement with Skype

[Skype](#), the original online communication platform, has been around since 2003. It is good for one-on-one conversations and group meetings when you can't meet in person.

While there are many other online communication technologies today, Skype, having been around for almost two decades, is generally well known in the community and has continued to reinvent itself to keep up with market needs.

Features of Skype

The links below will take you to How-To videos.

- [Software program or an app](#) to use across a range of devices - computer, phone or tablet.
- Use Skype without a program or app via web.skype.com
- Option for video meetings with no signups or downloads via <https://www.skype.com/en/free-conference-call/>
- [Phone calls and SMS](#) (using paid Skype credits).
- [Meet now](#) option to invite Skype contacts and those not on Skype to join an online meeting.
- [Screen sharing](#).
- [File sharing](#) into meetings.
- [Instant messaging chat](#).
- [Meeting recording](#).
- [Live subtitles](#).
- [Translated conversations](#).

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When to use Skype

Use Skype in place of face-to-face meetings and informal conversations.

Ideas for Skype in Consumer and Community Involvement:

- Meet with consumers to get feedback on research questions and research proposal.
- Pilot data collection tools (interviews, focus groups, surveys).
- Present results of analysis to consumers.

Cost and accessibility

Skype is free for everyone to join. Hosts can invite up to 49 people to join audio and video conversations and meetings. There is a cost involved for direct calls to mobiles and landline numbers (i.e. not another Skype account).

Quick sources of information

- [Sign-in to Skype for the first time](#)
- [Skype tutorial – video](#)
- [How to use Skype - video](#)

Further support and advice

Register your project via [the Research Advice Form](#).

For further questions on Consumer and Community Involvement and how it can improve your research outcomes contact [Darshini Ayton](#) or [Sandra Braaf](#).

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