



Royal College of Surgeons of England

ADVANCING SURGICAL CARE

Become a champion for patients.

The Royal College of Surgeons of England (RCS England) is seeking a Chair and Vice-Chair for its Patient and Public Group (PPG).

What is the Patient and Public Group? (PPG)

The Patient and Public Group at the Royal College of Surgeons of England is relaunching in a new format to bring together representatives from patient charities and lay experts to inform College policy, standards, and influencing work. The PPG will provide strategic advice and insight to RCS England on key surgical issues, ensuring that the patient voice is embedded in the College's work.

The PPG's objectives are:

- To secure insight and advice from both disease-specific and cross-cutting patient organisations on key surgical issues and topics.
- To enable the College to respond to concerns raised by the patient representative community about surgical care.
- To strengthen collaboration with patient organisations to co-develop solutions and influence surgical standards and care.
- To act as a critical friend to RCS England, offering constructive challenge and support.

The candidate we're looking for

Candidates should be able to demonstrate a strong interest in health-related issues and in representing patients' interests. Commitment and initiative are vital. These positions are specifically for those with a non-clinical background. We encourage applications from people from a diverse range of backgrounds and experiences.

The role

This is a substantial role that is integral to the College's work. This position is voluntary, with travel expenses reimbursed. The appointment is for one year, with the possibility of renewal. The PPG will meet at least three times per year, with additional ad-hoc meetings as required. Meetings of the PPG will be held in person at the Royal College of Surgeons of England's premises in London, with online access to maximise accessibility and participation by members. It is preferable that the Chair and Vice-Chair attend these meetings in person. All other meetings will be conducted online, where practical.

The PPG Chair also has a seat on the RCS England Council, which has 10 meetings a year, each lasting approximately 5 hours.

Chair, Vice-Chair and PPG members may be asked to represent the PPG at external meetings or forums or take part in other streams of work within the College. Time should also be allotted for travel, reading papers before meetings, and feedback as appropriate.

How to apply

To apply, please submit a CV and covering letter, as well as the contact details of someone you have known for at least two years who would be willing to provide a reference. You should outline why you are interested in the role, any relevant experience and which role (Chair or Vice-Chair) you are applying for. Please send your application to Luke Warren, lwarren@rcseng.ac.uk by **Sunday 24 August 2025 at 23.59**.

Chair Role Description

Title	PPG Chair.
Time commitment	The PPG Group will meet at least three times per year, with additional ad hoc meetings as required. The Chair is also required to attend RCS England Council meetings. Requests will also be made to represent the PPG at external meetings or forums or take part in other streams of work within the college. Time should also be allotted for travel, reading papers prior to meetings, and feedback as appropriate.
Venue	PPG meetings will be held in person at the Royal College of Surgeons of England, 38-43 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London WC2A 3PE. These meetings will have online access to maximise accessibility and participation by members. It is preferable that the Chair and Vice-Chair attend these meetings in person. RCS England Council meetings take place both virtually and in person at RCS England. All other meetings will be conducted online, where practical.
Expenses	Travel and reasonable out-of-pocket expenses to agreed college-related meetings and events will be reimbursed.
Accountable to	RCS England Council
Tenure of office	An initial 1 year, which may be extended.
Code of	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Adhere to the Royal College of Surgeons Code of Conduct.

conduct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair meetings and contribute constructively, providing input that reflects the voice of patients and carers. • Act as a representative of the PPG across College work groups and external meetings, providing timely written feedback to the PPG afterwards. • Contribute to the practical work of the PPG, such for college communications and publications and consultation documents. • Commit to attending as many meetings of their group as possible, and give reasonable notice when attendance is not possible. • Bring any potential conflicts of interest to the attention of the College.
Person specification: Essential	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resident of England or Wales. • By 'patient' we mean someone who has not practised as a registered healthcare professional. • Commitment to improving the experiences of surgical patients, their carers/supporters and families. • Able to dedicate the necessary time to the tasks involved. • Highly organised and reliable. • Strong oral and written communication skills. • Able to take the views of other people into consideration. • Able to critically review complex written or spoken information. • Able to represent the patient and public interest. • Able to communicate with confidence and assertiveness. • Able to work as part of a team. • Willingness to travel to London and elsewhere and, occasionally, be away from home overnight. • Honesty and integrity. • Respect for confidentiality. • Openness and transparency.
Person specification: Desirable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding of the current issues in the NHS and surgery. • Personal experience of surgery as a patient or carer. • Confidence in speaking publicly or in committees. • Experience of working on behalf of patients and public. • IT literacy: competent in Microsoft Word and in communicating using email.

Vice-Chair Role Description

Title	PPG Vice-Chair
Time commitment	The PPG Group will meet at least three times per year, with additional ad hoc meetings as required. Requests will also be made to represent the PPG at external meetings or forums or take part in other streams of work within the college. Time should also be allotted for travel, reading papers prior to meetings, and feedback as appropriate.
Venue	<p>PPG meetings will be held in person at the Royal College of Surgeons of England, 38-43 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London WC2A 3PE. These meetings will have online access to maximise accessibility and participation by members. It is preferable that the Chair and Vice-Chair attend these meetings in person.</p> <p>All other meetings will be conducted online, where practical.</p>
Expenses	Travel and reasonable out-of-pocket expenses to agreed college-related meetings and events will be reimbursed.
Accountable to	PPG Chair.
Tenure of office	An initial 1 year, which may be extended.
Code of conduct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adhere to the Royal College of Surgeons Code of Conduct. • Contribute constructively, providing input that reflects the voice of patients and carers. • Act as a representative of the PPG across College work groups and external meetings, providing timely written feedback to the PPG afterwards. • Contribute to the practical work of the PPG, such for college communications and publications and consultation documents. • Commit to attending as many meetings of their group as possible, and give reasonable notice when attendance is not possible. • Bring any potential conflicts of interest to the attention of the College.
Person specification: Essential	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resident of England or Wales. • By 'patient' we mean someone who has not practised as a registered healthcare professional. • Commitment to improving the experiences of surgical patients, their carers/supporters and families. • Able to dedicate the necessary time to the tasks involved. • Highly organised and reliable. • Strong oral and written communication skills.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Able to take the views of other people into consideration. • Able to critically review complex written or spoken information. • Able to represent the patient and public interest. • Able to communicate with confidence and assertiveness. • Able to work as part of a team. • Willingness to travel to London and elsewhere and, occasionally, be away from home overnight. • Honesty and integrity. • Respect for confidentiality. • Openness and transparency.
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For any questions on the information included in this advertisement, please contact Luke Warren at lwarren@rcseng.ac.uk.