Introduction to this guide

There has never been a better time to be a member!

This guide will provide you with a comprehensive summary of all the benefits provided to you as a member of the Royal College of General Practitioners. With over 60 key benefits, we continue to develop new services and initiatives to provide you with value for money; comprehensive support; enhanced professional status and a collective voice.

To quickly access a full list of benefits, please visit

rcgp.org.uk/memberbenefits
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Foreword

Professor Mike Pringle is President of the Royal College of General Practitioners, having taken over from Dr Iona Heath in November 2012. Having been a general practitioner for 30 years, Mike is now retired from practice and the University of Nottingham, where he is Emeritus Professor of General Practice. You can find out more about Mike on our Officers’ page of the College website.

General practice is at the centre of the UK healthcare system. The quality and extent of primary care in Britain is recognised and respected internationally. Your College believes in achieving the best care for our patients and the public. Your College promotes general practice and supports its development, and that is why it has over 46,000 members.

However, your membership is never taken for granted. The College Officers, Council Members, Trustees and dedicated staff are constantly aware that your future depends on the energy and effectiveness of their work today. We are actively engaged in lobbying for the roles and responsibilities of general practitioners in the NHS.

This is, above all, your College and if it goes in the wrong direction, please work to re-direct it. If it doesn’t offer what you seek, please ask. If you think it can do better, please join us in our efforts to improve. And above all, let’s believe together in a better future for our patients.

Professor Mike Pringle, President RCGP
About the College

We are the professional membership body and guardian of standards for family doctors in the UK, working to promote excellence in primary healthcare.

**Our vision**
Excellence in general practice for patients worldwide.

**Our purpose and strategic aims**
To promote the best possible quality of health and healthcare for the population by:

- Setting the highest standards for general practice.
- Ensuring that GPs have the best possible training.
- Supporting GPs throughout their professional lives to deliver the best possible service.
- Leading the profession and demonstrating the value of general practice.
- Developing general practice as the foundation of effective and sustainable primary care worldwide.
- Using resources efficiently to support our members and develop the College sustainably.

**Corporate governance**
The College’s Council, which is responsible for leading the development of policy and strategy, comprises 33 elected faculty representatives; up to 18 members elected by a postal ballot of all Fellows and Members; and observers, who cannot vote.

There are five Officers of Council each of whom is elected annually by and from the Council. The Chair of Council and Vice-Chair normally hold office for three years. The Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer normally hold office for longer in order to provide continuity.

The College is governed by a Trustee Board, which is responsible for the College as a registered Charity. It has twelve members comprising the Chair (elected by Council), four elected members of Council and four lay representatives.

Find out more about our Officers and Trustees:

rcgp.org.uk/about-us/governance-and-constitution/leadership-team
Introducing our new headquarters at 30 Euston Square

Our brand new headquarters has state-of-the-art facilities for education, conferences, overnight accommodation, meetings and entertaining. It has become a home from home for our members when in London.

Centralised and accessible, 30 Euston Square helps us deliver core educational services, and makes it easier for the College and its members to work with key stakeholders to shape and influence the future of healthcare and share best practice for improved patient care. Member rates apply so come and visit us soon!

Key services include: Bedrooms; Auditorium; Business room hire; Café Caritas (free wifi); Members’ Lounge (exclusive member access); State rooms with a roof terrace and a gym.

[Introduction image]

Your guide to RCGP Membership Services

The Membership Services team provides a wide-range of services and support to current and prospective members of the College. The services offered to members include:

- Provision of letters of good standing and verifications of membership for employment and relocation purposes.
- Tax receipts for HMRC for your subscription.
- Support and advice on eligibility criteria and administration of new member applications, reinstatements, membership upgrades, Fellowship, etc.
- Maintenance of your membership, including membership renewals and payment processing.
- Maintenance of your record and contact details - though members are encouraged to update their profile online via ‘My RCGP’.
- New and replacement membership certificates (framed and non-framed).
- Website login assistance.

[Contact information]

(+44) 020 3188 7766
membership@rcgp.org.uk

MY RCGP: Dedicated Members’ Area

We continually develop the members’ password protected section of the RCGP website, which enables exclusive access to a wide range of member benefits.

[Website link]

rcgp.org.uk/myrcgp
Continuing Professional Development

**Introduction to Continuing Professional Development (CPD)**
We offer a wide range of high-quality clinical and professional development opportunities that you can access in a variety of formats including face-to-face courses, eLearning and publishing. Find out more about all the CPD provision we provide to members in this section.

**CPD scheme**
The College’s CPD system enables you to recognise the impact a learning activity has had on your practice and enhance its CPD rating accordingly.

[rcgp.org.uk/cpd](http://rcgp.org.uk/cpd)

**Revalidation ePortfolio and support**
The College supports members and key stakeholders with the revalidation process through the provision of guidance, information and supporting tools. We have recruited and trained a network of Specialty Advisers, clinical experts on revalidation with a specialist area of expertise. They have helped us develop a range of additional revalidation resources, including an easy-to-navigate Question and Answer bank, a series of guidance toolkits and a range of sample portfolios, to guide GPs in specialised roles.

[rcgp.org.uk/revalidation](http://rcgp.org.uk/revalidation)

The RCGP Revalidation ePortfolio is designed to make it simple to collect supporting information for appraisal and revalidation. Core features include:

- Integration with the RCGP Trainee ePortfolio, providing a seamless progression from the system used by all GP trainees.
- Integration with the RCGP Online Learning Environment (OLE), which contains the Essential Knowledge Updates and Challenges and the PEP Learning Needs Assessment tool.
- Developed in line with national guidance to support the “end to end” revalidation process.
- Supported by a dedicated Service Desk.
Update: We have incorporated the GMC colleague and patient questionnaire tools – with self assessment and benchmarking features - into the Revalidation ePortfolio.

Online Learning Environment
The RCGP eLearning portal, www.elearning.rcgp.org.uk hosts a wide range of online resources designed to meet the specific needs of GPs. It is a rapidly growing resource with over 40,000 GPs and other healthcare professionals accessing it to date.

› Essential Knowledge Updates and Challenges
› Personal Education Planning (PEP) learning needs assessment tools
› Courses that form part of blended learning certificates on subjects such as substance misuse
› Stand alone courses e.g. modules on cancer, commissioning, domestic violence, TB, self care, kidney and respiratory health.

Courses, certificates and events
The College runs hundreds of courses, conferences and events across the UK ranging from large scale events such as our One-Day Essential series to regular minor surgery courses and local networking events. We ensure there’s something for all members regardless of career stage, location or interest.

First5® resources
Our membership package for newly qualified GPs is called First5. With dedicated events UK-wide, resources and online forums, we offer support through those crucial five years from qualification up to your first point of Revalidation.

First5® is based on five pillars:

› Facilitating networks - Encouraging peer support and mentoring through local networks
› Connecting - Promoting a sense of belonging and representation for the First5 cohort
› Career mentorship (requires login) - Making the most of a career in general practice
› Supporting Revalidation
› Continuing Professional Development (CPD)
Engagement and local support

Setting the policy agenda

In order to secure the best policy framework for general practice to deliver excellent patient care, the College represents the profession to the four governments of the UK, and to the media.

The College is campaigning to protect the reputation of GPs in the face of repeated criticism in the media and has continued to meet with leading political figures, as a key way of representing the profession.

We have secured support from educational decision-making bodies for the College’s case to introduce a four-year programme of enhanced GP training, to ensure that the GPs of the future have the confidence and skills to meet ever more complex patient needs. We are now following this up by lobbying to get the go ahead for implementation from ministers in all four nations of the UK.

The College has also published a major report, the 2022 GP, which sets out the way in which we would like to see general practice develop – so that GPs can most effectively continue to deliver excellent patient care. This document, which makes the case for more investment in general practice and the employment of more GPs, will be the key reference point for much of our policy and campaign work in the coming year.

rcgp.org.uk/news
Regional support - Devolved Councils
Devolved Councils operate in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales and were formed to recognise the different health and academic structures that exist and to better represent members in these areas.

If you are a member in these countries, get in touch.

[rcgp.org.uk/rcgp-near-you](rcgp.org.uk/rcgp-near-you)

Local support - Faculties
There are currently 31 local branches (known as faculties) in the UK, one in the Republic of Ireland and one faculty for International and Overseas members.

Faculties undertake a wide range of activities (including seminars, conferences, workshops, research, educational and social events) which reflect the College’s aim to promote the highest possible standards of patient care.

**On joining the College, you are automatically allocated to membership of one of the faculties of the College based on your main address.**

[rcgp.org.uk/faculties](rcgp.org.uk/faculties)

International development
The College encourages the development of Family Medicine internationally through a number of projects and initiatives aimed to develop primary care around the world. Doctors based outside the UK can take an [MRCGP (INT)-accredited exam](rcgp.org.uk/rcgp-near-you/rcgp-international) in seven internationally recognised centres and upon completion, can apply for [international membership](rcgp.org.uk/rcgp-near-you/rcgp-international).

Through our [international development programme](rcgp.org.uk/rcgp-near-you/rcgp-international) we offer advice on training the trainers and examiners, undergraduate and postgraduate curriculum development, assessments and primary healthcare research. Our expertise is available to any medical training or examining body. The International department also provides [UK visits and talks](rcgp.org.uk/rcgp-near-you/rcgp-international) for groups of overseas doctors; [International Travel Scholarships](rcgp.org.uk/rcgp-near-you/rcgp-international); and a ‘Hippokrates Exchange Programme’.
**Annual National Conference**
The Annual National Conference is the flagship event on the primary care calendar. Held in the autumn of each year, it brings together an impressive range of national and international speakers.

[rcgp.org.uk/annualconference](http://rcgp.org.uk/annualconference)

A delegate tweet from annual conference 2012:

“A must for all GPs #rcgpac the most inspiring, informative, educational and all round fun event I’ve been to in a long time. Thanks to the team!” – Janet Hall

**Online bookshop**
The College bookshop is a one-stop-shop for all your medical book needs. As an RCGP member, you receive a 10% discount on all purchases.

[rcgp.org.uk/shop](http://rcgp.org.uk/shop)

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“86% of members would recommend the College to a colleague* - 2012 RCGP survey”

Quote from Annual Membership Survey 2012

**Annual membership survey**
Each year we contact you and all our members to ask for feedback on all the services we provide as a membership body. Remember to respond again this year when emails go out in the autumn.

Look at the key points from last year’s survey

[rcgp.org.uk/membership/membership-survey](http://rcgp.org.uk/membership/membership-survey)
Online Knowledge Resource Centre
The Knowledge Resource Centre collection and library catalogue
RCGP members can access online resources and journals, order items, save searches and check loans via the catalogue. Our extensive collection includes books and reports on all aspects of general practice, a comprehensive range of relevant journals in hard copy and electronic format, MRCGP and curriculum publications, and a unique collection of BSc, MD and PhD theses written by GPs.

A-Z journals portal
Log into the A-Z journals portal for a list of all the titles we hold. Journals include BJGP, InnovAiT, British Medical Journal, Education for Primary Care, The Lancet and Family Practice.

“"The RCGP acts as a voice for general practitioners but is also a support for continued education and revalidation."”
Quote from Annual Membership Survey 2012

BJGP Jobs and Careers service
If you’re looking for that perfect job or fancy a new challenge, why not find yourself a new opportunity using this brand new member service?

RCGP members and practice teams can:
- search for a wide range of GP and practice manager jobs.
- subscribe to weekly job alerts.
- apply for new jobs.
- save your favourite jobs and self manage your applications.
- search for externally managed courses, events and conferences.

library@rcgp.org.uk
rcgp.org.uk/knowledge
rcgp.org.uk/bjgp-jobs
Journals, newsletters and updates

Chair’s Blog and Seven Days
One of the College’s most popular email bulletins is written by the RCGP Chair, which provides key updates on RCGP activities and general practice news from around the world.

British Journal of General Practice (BJGP)
The BJGP is the College’s journal which is distributed monthly to members and subscribers. It is an international journal which publishes articles of interest to family practitioners worldwide.

Members can also access the online version of the BJGP, where you can read the current edition and search back issues for content.

InnovAiT
InnovAiT is a journal for Associates in Training (AiTs). Rotating through the whole new curriculum for the MRCGP on a three year cycle, InnovAiT supports and assists the learning and development of AiTs as they progress through training.

Members of the College are entitled to subscribe to InnovAiT at a price of £60 per annum and GP Trainers may subscribe for a further discounted rate of £38.

“Membership confirms your professional status as a doctor who strives for excellence”
Quote from Annual Membership Survey 2012
Revalidate

Revalidate is a quarterly electronic magazine focused on revalidation and appraisal for the busy GP, as well as tips and resources for CPD. Topics include: the latest news on revalidation, expert answers to common questions, articles on safer prescribing and diagnosing ovarian cancer, links to interesting podcasts and the latest free e-learning resources.

View on Tablet/iPad devices, or from your PC. The interactive format allows readers to directly submit revalidation questions and link to content of interest.

Download Revalidate now at:

[revalidate-rcgp.hpmdigital.co.uk/](revalidate-rcgp.hpmdigital.co.uk/)

Regular member e-updates

Each month, members receive dedicated email updates relating to their career stage and location (e.g. trainee/First5 and Faculty/Devolved Council based updates).

Visit ‘MyRCGP’ on our website to update your profile to ensure you receive important communications.
Recognition

**Enhanced professional status**

Only members who have passed their exam through the College or via the International assessment route may use the MRCGP or MRCGP [INT]. Members who have fulfilled the requirements of Fellowship may then use the FRCGP/FRCP [INT] post nominal.

**New Members’ Ceremonies**

New Members Ceremonies are held around four times a year to welcome those who become Members of the College by either passing the MRCGP exam or MAP. Members are presented with their membership certificate in the presence of their family, friends and peers as a celebration of their achievement in the beautiful surroundings of 30 Euston Square. New members have up to one year to attend a ceremony following qualification.

[rcgp.org.uk/ceremonies](http://rcgp.org.uk/ceremonies)
Fellowship

After five years of continuous membership, you are eligible to apply for Fellowship of your College. Fellowship is an important part of a GP’s career development, as well as an opportunity for the College to recognise the individual contributions being made to excellent standards of care. Over 3,000 members have received the Fellowship status to date and they come from a diverse background with enlightening experience and contributions towards general practice. In addition to the use of the FRCGP post nominal and an invitation to a special ceremony, Fellows now receive an official logo to highlight their achievement.

Feedback from one of our Fellows:

“To be recognised and nominated by others and presented with an award in such a grand setting is just reward for the hard work many of us are doing. I now realise that I need to urge the doctors who I initially thought were more worthy than me to think about going through this process. I would urge others to consider nominating those around them who until now have been working hard in a particular area and without just recognition.”

Awards, prizes and life membership

In addition to Fellowship, the College has over 20 awards that are available both on application and by nomination. All are intended to give recognition and encouragement to people in the different ways they work and can apply to different aspects of general practice e.g. those in training, those who have spent a lifetime in practice as well as those outside of medicine.

Retired members

As well as demonstrating continued support for the College’s important work, keeping up your involvement with the College after retirement is a great way of staying in touch with colleagues. Retired members now receive a quarterly e-bulletin to keep up to date with the College so longstanding members can get involved in social activities, mentoring, International development and much more. We also host a President’s reception exclusively for our valued retired members each year.
Getting involved

Research
The College research function sits within the larger Clinical, Innovation and Research Centre which carries out a range of work to improve clinical standards for the care of patients through clinical effectiveness, quality improvement and research initiatives linked to GP education, training and continuing professional development.

How you can get involved:
› Clinical Advisers programme
› Peer Review programme
› Clinical priorities programme

Consultations
The College responds to well over 100 consultation exercises each year and involves several hundred members in the process. Topics range from clinical, practice issues, regulatory matters, ethics and medico-legal issues and areas of public policy where they impact on GPs.

General Meetings: AGM and SGM
The College AGM is held in November each year, followed by a Spring General Meeting in May. The meetings involve the presentation of College awards, including Fellowship, an address by the College Chairman to Council, a presentation of the College’s finances and an opportunity for College members to vote on issues relating to the College’s governance.

Committees
Many members get involved with the College by applying or being nominated for positions on our committees. For example, the ‘Associate in Training Committee’ gives trainees a key voice in the development of College policy and initiatives and the ‘Health Inequalities Group’ works to ensure that health inequalities are taken into account across all areas of College activity.
RCGP Plus – Providing you with added value in practice and at home

We have recently launched a brand new suite of value-added member benefits exclusively for members.

Examples of offers available:

- **In practice** – It is important to get great value on practice spend so we are working with a range of leading providers to offer a dedicated Practice Energy Price Comparison Service, Practice Broadband Switching Service, Practice Merchant Services Comparison Service and a Telecommunications Switching Service. We will also be partnering with leading professional membership bodies, including the Academy of Medical Educators to provide up to 1/3 off the annual cost of membership.

- **At home** – We will partner with leading insurance provider, Hiscox, to offer you 10% off insurance products including home building and contents insurance and holiday cover. We also offer great accommodation and restaurant offers/promotions at 30 Euston Square and other high profile London restaurants, including the National Portrait Gallery and The Gherkin.

[rcgp-plus.com](http://rcgp-plus.com)