

Role description

RCP regional adviser

Location	Respective region/nation
Department	Membership Support and Global Engagement
Reports to	RCP registrar
Tenure	6 years

About the RCP

The Royal College of Physicians (RCP) is a professional membership body with over 40,000 members in the UK and around the world working to improve patient care and reduce illness. Our activities focus on educating, improving and influencing for better health and care.

We champion an inclusive culture and welcome applications from all sections of society. We value taking care, learning and being collaborative. These values underpin everything we do.

Join us to help achieve our vision of a world in which everyone has the best possible health and healthcare.

The purpose of your role

RCP regional advisers (RAs) are fellows who are appointed by the RCP nominations committee to serve their region in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The RCP regards RAs to be essential in advising on a range of training, teaching and service activities that are pertinent to the work of physicians.

The responsibilities of an RA are outlined below. Additional duties may be directed by regional and/or national events. In order to support RAs to carry out the areas of work below, the RCP provides administrative support to each region from a team of regional managers.

Qualifications and tenure

RAs should be RCP fellows who are in good standing and in active clinical practice within the respective region. The tenure of an RA is typically 6 years. RAs work as a team within their region, and the local distribution of work between advisers can be flexible and change over each RA's tenure. One RA must be designated the main RCP point of contact and the RA team should agree between them who will take this role. The tenure can be extended by agreement between the RA and the RCP registrar. In order to deliver their roles effectively, RAs will receive an appropriate induction.

What you're responsible for

- 1 Attending the quarterly RCP RAs meeting. At least one RA from each region should be present at each meeting.
- 2 Approving consultant job descriptions. Prior to advertising, trusts seek RCP approval for job descriptions. RAs, with advice from the regional specialty advisers (RSAs), check that job descriptions fulfil the RCP recommendations and suggest further amendments or approve as necessary. Advice must be given within a particular timescale, usually 1 week, as the aim is to get overall comments back to the requesting NHS trust/authority within 3 weeks. This is the responsibility of regional advisers within the region.
- 3 Arranging an 'Update in medicine' conference. This is an important regional event that combines an internal medicine CPD day, which is usually attended by the RCP president and other RCP officers, with a visit by the RCP president to a local hospital on a separate day. The CPD day should be suitable for and open to junior doctors as well as consultants.
- 4 Reviewing and assessing applications for RCP fellowship. RAs will be invited to become a fellowship grading panel member which involves reviewing, assessing, and grading nominations for fellowship, adhering to the guidance and criteria as set out by the RCP. Regional advisers are strongly encouraged to fully take part in this process. Invitations to sit on a panel will be sent out on an annual basis from the Fellowship team. RAs will receive appropriate guidance documentation regarding the fellowship review process prior to commencing the core duties.
- 5 Acting as an RCP point of contact for RCP college tutors and/or senior physicians in the region. RAs should endeavour to forge links with RCP college tutors and/or senior physicians in the trusts in their region, which will include holding a meeting for RCP college tutors and associate college tutors twice a year. These links are particularly important if there are concerns about training or care in a particular locality, in which case it may be appropriate to arrange a meeting with physicians in that trust.
- 6 Contributing to the management of training in internal medicine for internal medicine trainees and specialty trainees. One of the region's RAs should endeavour to represent the RCP on the Regional Core Medical Training Committee, the Regional Internal Medicine Committee, and the School of Medicine Board. Due to clinical commitments, responsibility for attending these meetings may be shared between the RAs.
- 7 Facilitating the introduction of CPD events for new consultants. CPD events for new consultants are being developed by the RCP New Consultants Committee. The RAs and their regional manager will work with the regional New Consultants Committee representative to facilitate the introduction and development of these events in their region.
- 8 Approving continuing professional development (CPD) events. RAs may be asked to support the work of the CPD team to assess proposed educational events for RCP approval.

Other duties may include

- 1 Participating in the appointment of RCP college tutors. The college tutor post should be advertised internally in the trust, with appointment by interview. The panel should include the head of the School of Medicine (or a nominated deputy, usually the regional core medical programme director), the trust director of medical education (or a nominated

deputy) and one of the RAs (or a nominated deputy). The trust concerned may make an interim appointment before a formal process is undertaken at a later date.

- 2 Contributing to supporting doctors in difficulty. The RCP believes that it is important to offer support to members and fellows who encounter a professional difficulty. A comprehensive approach to this issue is being developed and RAs will contribute as a potential point of contact for those who are in difficulty. Often this will be to signpost the member or fellow involved to more appropriate resources, but this is a new approach and as such the RAs' role will be reviewed and amended in the light of experience and discussion with RAs.
- 3 Promoting the activities of the RCP.
- 4 Promoting the wellbeing of physicians and colleagues.
- 5 RAs for Wales and Northern Ireland may have additional national roles advising their devolved health departments.

Our values

We are committed to **taking care, learning, and being collaborative**. These values drive the way we behave, how we interact with each other, and how we work together to achieve our vision and improve patient care.

We value taking care

This means we behave respectfully towards people, whatever their role, position, gender, or background. It means we act as representatives of the RCP and take decisions in the interests of the organisation as a whole.

We value learning

This means we continuously improve through active learning and honest reflection, so that we grow personally and as an organisation, while striving for excellence. We support learning and development opportunities.

We value being collaborative

This means we work together towards the RCP's vision in a collaborative and professional way, understanding that individuals bring different strengths and approaches to our work. We value diversity and each other's contributions.

The RCP positively encourages applications from suitably qualified and eligible candidates regardless of sex, race, disability, age, sexual orientation, transgender status, religion or belief, marital status or pregnancy and maternity.

The RCP is all about our people – our members, staff, volunteers and leaders. We educate, influence and collaborate to improve health and healthcare for everyone and know we can only do this by being inclusive, encouraging and celebrating diverse perspectives. Welcoming into our community people who represent the 21st-century medical workforce and the diverse population of patients we serve is a priority for us.

As a volunteer you are expected to comply with all RCP data protection and security policies and procedures.

(Reviewed May 2023)