



Committee on Ethical Issues in Medicine (CEIM)

Terms of Reference

Responsibility

The Committee on Ethical Issues in Medicine advises and reports to Council. The Committee is accountable to the Board of Trustees. Its areas of work fall into the following principal categories:

- 1) To respond to requests from the president on behalf of Council or the chair of the Board of Trustees on behalf of the Board for advice on issues related to clinical practice or procedural matters.
- 2) To provide Council and/or trustees with detailed advice on the ethical aspects of RCP policy and strategy development.
- 3) To horizon scan and consider external requests for assistance for consideration by Council and/or the Board of Trustees and potential incorporation into the CEIM work programme.

Organisation

- The Committee on Ethical Issues in Medicine is chaired by a lay chair, supported by the Membership Support and Global Engagement Department.
- It meets at least twice a year
- The chair serves on Council as a non-voting member.
- CEIM minutes are routinely received by Council.
- The president, registrar and clinical vice president serve as ex officio members.
- The work programme of the CEIM is agreed at Council.

Membership

The membership of the Committee on Ethical Issues in Medicine must reflect the broad diversity and protected characteristics of UK society. The Royal College of Physicians welcomes and actively seeks to recruit people to its activities regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation. The RCP aims to reflect the diversity of its members in all its committee, senior roles and staff in general. The diversity of the specialty will be considered in determining appointments.

All members are expected to have an interest in ethics, philosophy and/or logic.

- Lay chair - 5 years
- RCP clinical vice-president- *ex-officio*
- Four FRCPs - 4 years
- Two PCN representatives - 4 years
- A representative of the New Consultants Committee- as per parent committee
- A representative of the Resident Doctors Committee- as per parent committee
- An SAS doctors' representative - 4 years

- A legal expert- 4 years
- A health Inequalities Expert – 4 years
- An expert in medical ethics - 4 years
- RCP Policy and Communications representative
- RCP president and registrar- *ex-officio*

Members must be able to attend meetings regularly and contribute to deliberative discussion and development of advice between committee meetings. Where this is not possible the chair may ask members to stand down and seek a replacement. Term lengths are renewable in certain circumstances and at the discretion of the RCP.

Open advertisement will be used to fill vacancies for the lay chair and applicable member. The chair will be appointed following interview and membership applications are considered by the RCP Nominations Committee

The committee may liaise with other organisations as appropriate to share or obtain advice. However the committee, or any of its members, may not make any public statement or approve any published materials in its own name or that of the RCP, except with the approval of Council.

Expenses

Reasonable travel expenses are payable in line with RCP policy.

Last reviewed: June 2025

Next review date: June 2026