



Commentary guide for authors

Introduction

Commentary is the membership magazine of the RCP, bringing together insights, opinions and experiences from across the healthcare and RCP community. It reflects the breadth of modern medicine and showcases voices from physicians at all stages of their careers, both in the UK and internationally. We aim to publish stories that reflect the diverse work of our members, articles that inform, spark thought and connect with readers on a human level.

The *Commentary* web page features articles that fit into four into one of main sections:

- In conversation (interviews)
- Features
- International (RCP global work)
- RCP news, governance and editorial columns: these are put together by the *Commentary* clinical editor and RCP editorial team and are not open to external submissions.

Articles are published on an ad hoc basis on the RCP website using Adobe Express, and are also grouped into editions sent to members by email six times a year. Pieces may also be promoted through other RCP newsletters, events, [the RCP website](#) and main RCP social media channels ([LinkedIn](#), [Bluesky](#), [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#)). We encourage authors and readers to share articles within their own networks too.

Commentary is led by clinical editor Professor Ollie Minton, supported by an advisory group of RCP members and fellows who help shape the magazine's editorial direction. An in-house communications team do the editorial and content checks. The team will commission several features and interviews for each edition.

The RCP reserves the right to determine what content is published in *Commentary*, ensuring alignment with professional guidance such as the GMC's [Good medical practice](#), as well as RCP policies including the [Code of conduct](#), **RCP values** and any applicable election guidance. The mix of content will be steered by the *Commentary* advisory group which aims to make each edition a rich mix of subjects that are important to the membership, ensure diversity of topic and align with the RCP's strategic direction which was developed through membership engagement.

Articles published in *Commentary* reflect the opinions of the authors and do not necessarily represent the view of the RCP.

While we aim to publish articles in a timely manner, editorial capacity and volume of articles can vary.

While publishing or being featured in *Commentary* is not always exclusive to RCP members and fellows, the voices of our members and fellows and RCP strategic priority areas are prioritised.

Submission guidelines

To submit an article to *Commentary*:

- First, please send your pitch to commentary@rcp.ac.uk, outlining your topic, intended audience and purpose. The editorial team will share their suggestions for a timeline and approach.

- If your article needs to be published by a specific date, please let us know in advance and aim to submit your draft at least 1 month beforehand.
- Include your name, role and affiliation, and declare any conflicts of interest.
- Submissions must be original, written with the consent of all authors and not previously published elsewhere.
- Please write in British English, rather than American English. If English is not your first language, the editorial team will be happy to support you.
- Avoid including identifiable patient information unless it is fully anonymised and appropriate consent has been obtained.
- Avoid sharing personal information about colleagues, RCP members or staff without consent.
- Follow relevant professional and employer guidance, as well as RCP editorial style.

Editing

All submissions are reviewed and edited by the RCP editorial team to ensure that they are engaging, appropriate and relevant for our audience. We may make reasonable edits to structure, tone and content in line with RCP house style.

Where significant changes are made, these will be shared with you for review before publication. You will have an opportunity to provide feedback at this stage.

We aim to work collaboratively with authors throughout the process to achieve a final version that meets both your expectations and our editorial standards.

Please note that *Commentary* is not a peer-reviewed journal and while all information is checked to ensure that it is accurate, it should not be used as a source of medical advice or information.

Writing

Tone and style

Commentary is designed to be readable, engaging and accessible. We encourage a tone that feels like a conversation with a colleague:

- **Warm and conversational** – write as you would speak to a peer.
- **Personal but professional** – first- or third-person perspectives are welcome.
- **Engaging** – aim for a clear narrative and point of view.

Length and structure

- Submitted articles should be **500–1,200 words max.**
- In-depth features or interviews may be **over 1,200 words** – but only once agreed by the editorial team.
- Keep paragraphs concise and readable.
- Use subheadings where helpful.
- Pull-out quotes or information boxes are welcome.

- Images, graphs or tables are encouraged to break up text.

We may suggest structural edits and we reserve the right to reduce word count where needed. The editorial team will always share major changes with you before publication.

Generative AI

You may use AI tools to support your writing – for example, for structuring content or refining language. However, *Commentary* is a space for authentic voices, so we encourage you to prioritise your own ideas and perspective.

If AI tools have been used in drafting or editing your article, please declare this on submission. Submissions that are fully AI-generated may not be accepted.

AI should never replace your professional judgement, expertise or critical thinking. Ultimately, you are responsible for the accuracy and integrity of your work.

Image, graphics and videos

Commentary is a visual publication, and we encourage you to share images, graphs, tables or videos to accompany your article.

When submitting images, please add confirmation that consent has been sought from anyone featured in the imagery.

Please ensure that any images are a decent quality (at least 500x500px – but preferably higher quality), and attached to an email as a .jpeg, .jpg or .png file. If you have a video to share, please let the editorial team know and we can discuss how best to share the files.

- Author photos (head and shoulders) are welcome, if you're comfortable sharing them.
- Please provide context for images, including names, locations and dates where relevant.
- Ensure that you have permission to use and share all images, including copyright details where applicable.
- Draft captions are welcome.
- If you'd like data turned into a graphic, please let us know in advance so that it can be designed for your approval.

Content may also be used to promote your article across RCP channels. If you have any concerns about image use, please let us know.

Videos should include a transcript so that captions can be added.

The editorial team may use additional, relevant stock or RCP images in the article. We cannot guarantee that all images or videos will be shared in articles.

Submission checklist

Preparation

- Make yourself familiar with these guidelines
- Discuss topic and format with editorial team *before* submitting

Draft article

- Submitted as a Word document (.doc or .docx)
- Ensure that article is submitted to max word length
- Proofread for spelling and grammar
- All information checked and references included where relevant

Author information

- Name, role and affiliations
- Any conflicts of interest and acknowledge any AI use
- Short biography (1–2 sentences)
- Optional: author photo
- Optional: contact details or social media links

Images and videos

- Any files you'd like included, attached to the email as a file
- Relevant copyright or credit information
- Confirm consent from people featured in any imagery

Publication date: August 2026

Review date: August 2028

Guidelines were signed off by *Commentary* clinical editor, Professor Ollie Minton.
Contact commentary@rcp.ac.uk for more information.