



RCP500

Code of Conduct

RCP500, the 500th anniversary celebration of the Royal College of Physicians, gives us the opportunity to explore and learn from our history, both in how we can apply this learning to the professional health of physicians in the 21st century and in how we conduct ourselves.

This document is intended to provide a clear set of expectations as to how RCP members, fellows and other healthcare professionals conduct themselves when working for or representing the RCP.

The standards identified should be seen as an adjunct to guidance provided by the General Medical Council (GMC) and published in documents such as *Good medical practice*, *Leadership and management for all doctors* and *Doctors' use of social media*, in addition to the Nolan principles of public life. The document does not diminish an individual's duty to act in accordance with their employing organisation's requirements and their contract of employment.

The broader topic of medical professionalism is being addressed by the RCP in a separate publication. The work on values and engagement relating to RCP staff will also align with the standards listed below.

The standards overleaf apply to all members, fellows and other healthcare professionals when representing the RCP, working on the RCP's behalf or attending an RCP event (business or social, in any location).

The standards relate to all forms of communication including written, verbal, non-verbal, electronic and social media, especially where the professional concerned could be deemed to be representing the RCP or if there are potential implications for the RCP's reputation.

Members, fellows and other healthcare professionals have collective responsibility to maintain these standards. They should be aware that if they fail to meet them, after full ascertainment of the circumstances, steps may be taken to address their behaviour and appropriate sanctions applied.

...it is certain that our Colledge can by no means be more firmly established and continued, then by good Laws, honest Governours, and Manners, and the singular Virtues and Learning of the Collegues.'

Royal College of Physicians' Statutes, 1555

The care of the patient is our first concern; how we conduct ourselves directly impacts on this care'

RCP censors





Royal College
of Physicians

- >> Treat others with respect and consideration
- >> Recognise and value diversity and individual differences
- >> Behave with integrity, honesty, kindness and patience
- >> Be a role model for professional behaviours
- >> Undertake our work in good conscience and to the best of our ability
- >> Foster collaborative and supportive working with others
- >> Promote trust and a just culture
- >> Hold ourselves and others accountable for professional and personal behaviours
- >> Take responsibility for the stewardship of our position of authority, mindful of our impact on others
- >> Respect the RCP's standards and rules and be a guardian of its reputation

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We promise to seek to provide the highest standards of patient care at all times, working with others to treat patients in the manner in which we would wish to be treated ourselves, and to involve patients, their families and carers in decisions about their care'

RCP500 Charter

