Joint Specialty Committee for Genito-urinary Medicine

Terms of Reference

This is a standing committee established jointly between the Royal College of Physicians of London and the British Association for Sexual Health and HIV (BASHH). The joint committee is advisory rather than executive, and has accountability to each of its parent bodies. In terms of accountability to the College, it reports to Council through the Medical Specialties Board.

The Committee is established to advise its parent bodies, or other organisations on their behalf, on matters of mutual interest. These will include:

- workforce and training
- setting national standards and agreeing joint guidelines and policy statements*
- drawing up specifications for clinical governance in relation to the practice of the specialty
- developing and extending service review
- continuing professional development for the specialist, including general medicine if necessary
- reviewing ethnic minority health issues on an annual basis
- identifying ethical issues on an annual basis
- any other specific matter of particular relevance to a specialty
- advice to College or other Working Parties.

*In dealing with these issues the Committee will restrict its advice to the context of England, Wales, and Northern Ireland. The contribution of any Scottish representative on the committee is welcomed, but the Scottish Colleges are not involved in joint ownership or sending items of business direct to the 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 its parent bodies, except with their approval.

Frequency of meetings

The Committee will meet 2 times a year and will meet electronically through an on-line forum.
Constitution

Chair
The office of Chair will rotate between the BASHH and the College. The relevant body will appoint when it is their turn, always with the proviso that this is a joint committee, so there must be agreement and mutual respect. Either body will have the right to object in extremis.

Honorary Secretary
The Honorary Secretary will be appointed from the membership of the Committee. The Honorary Secretary may become Chair, but this is not automatic.

The Chair’s and Honorary Secretary’s terms of office will be for at least two years, but no more than four.

Membership
Each parent body will nominate its own representatives. Neither party should be seen to be prescriptive about the other’s nominees, although wherever possible College nominees will be members of the specialist society, and specialist society nominees will be Members or Fellows of the College.

Individual members’ term of office will be for at least two years, but no more than four.

Membership will include, unless specifically agreed otherwise:

- Two senior representatives from the College, normally the President and Registrar
- Two senior specialty College representatives
- Two senior representatives from the Society (eg President and Secretary (or equivalent))
- One representative of the RCP New Consultants Committee
- Two representatives of the RCP Patient and Carer Network
- One trainee representative from the Society
- The chairman of the relevant SAC
- A single Scottish College representative
- One member with responsibility for workforce issues, who may remain on the Committee for more than four years.

Observers may be appointed for up to four years from the Faculty of Public Health, the Royal College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, the Royal College of General Practitioners and other relevant bodies.

Last review: May 2016

Next review: May 2017