



4

Please rank up to **FIVE** in priority order (1 = highest, 5 = lowest)

In order to help us plan our wider policy work would you also please rank the following issues that may affect the quality of care that physicians are able to deliver to patients, as they most concern you:	
Priority	Order of Preference
1. Clinical staff shortages	
2. Current structural change (eg abolishing PCTs, SHAs in England etc)	
3. Education, training and research	
4. Efficiency savings and reductions in NHS funding	
5. Foundation trust status	
6. Health reforms (ie the Health and Social Care Bill in England)	
7. Impact of European Working Time Directive/New Deal	
8. Lack of continuity of care	
9. Management of chronic conditions	
10. Nursing issues	
11. Patient safety	
12. Quality of commissioning	
13. Revalidation	
14. Social care	
15. Waiting times	
16. Workload in acute medicine	

If other issue please specify by e-mailing egm@rcplondon.ac.uk

Dear XXXXX

The government's reforms of the health service in England have seldom been out of the media over the past year, and since Christmas they have been reported almost daily. Since the publication of the coalition government white paper in July 2010, *Equity and excellence: Liberating the NHS*, and the subsequent Health and Social Care Bill in January 2011, the RCP has asked you to keep us informed of your views.

Your College has been successful in positively amending many aspects of the Bill, based largely on direct feedback from members, patients and carers. A summary of the considerable changes we have achieved is on the RCP website www.rcplondon.ac.uk/policy/health-reforms.

At the Extraordinary General Meeting of fellows held on 27 February a motion to survey all 26,500 members and fellows about their attitude to the Health and Social Care Bill was passed. Accordingly, a survey is attached via which I urge you to record your views on whether the RCP should formally reject the Bill, and to indicate how you would like the RCP to proceed. We would also like you to specify your key concerns regarding the Bill and the wider health landscape.

Your responses are vital in assisting your Council to determine our future strategy, both concerning the remaining stages of the Bill and engaging with the wider health landscape.

I am sorry that the timetable is tight, particularly for members and fellows based outside the UK. However, this is dictated by the need to obtain the views of fellows and members before the House of Lords completes its deliberations and returns the Bill for its (final) passage through the House of Commons.

The survey closes at noon on 15 March. I urge you to complete the survey electronically if possible and by no later than noon on 15 March. If you do not have access to the internet and/or wish to vote by post please ensure your response arrives no later than noon on 15 March.

Whatever your views, I do encourage you in the strongest possible terms to respond to this survey, whether you are from here in the UK or abroad. In so doing, you will provide the RCP with invaluable intelligence. Therefore the more feedback we obtain from members and fellows, the stronger our mandate and message will be.

As ever, you may also contact me directly, air your views on the RCP website's online forum, or attend one of our many regional events.

Kind regards

Sir Richard Thompson

President of the Royal College of Physicians

Survey Instructions

You may take part by internet or post.

TO TAKE PART BY INTERNET

Go to: www.votebyinternet.com/rcphysicians12
and follow the online instructions.

Your two-part security code
is printed on the page opposite.

TO TAKE PART BY POST

Please see page opposite to give your views.

RETURN INSTRUCTIONS

Survey closes:

NOON on THURSDAY 15th MARCH, 2012.

The internet service is available 24 hours a day.

Postal forms should be returned to the Independent Scrutineer, Electoral Reform Services, The Election Centre, 33 Clarendon Road, London N8 0NW in the pre-paid envelope provided.

You may only use ONE return option. Any attempt to take part more than once will be detected.

1

Please mark an 'X' in **one box only** next to your chosen answer.

Security Code Part One:	Security Code Part Two:
Do you accept or reject the plans laid out in the Health and Social Care Bill (as it stands now)? [This is the wording of the question agreed at the 27 February Extraordinary General Meeting]	
Accept	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reject	<input type="checkbox"/>
Neither completely accept, nor completely reject	<input type="checkbox"/>

2

Please mark an 'X' in **one box only** next to your chosen answer.

The RCP's position has always been that we do not accept the Bill in its current form and seek to engage critically with all parties to amend and improve the legislation. We have been anxious that requesting withdrawal of the Bill has the potential to impair our ability to influence the healthcare policy agenda in the future. In future, do you think the RCP should:	
Continue to engage critically on further improving the Bill	<input type="checkbox"/>
Seek withdrawal of the Bill	<input type="checkbox"/>

3

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To help the RCP plan our future work on health reforms, and to assess the perception of fellows and members of their likely impact on the NHS, please indicate your five key concerns:	
Priority	Order of Preference
1. Role of secretary of state	
2. National Commissioning Board	
3. Commissioning by clinical commissioning groups	
4. Regulation - the role of Monitor	
5. Regulation - the role of CQC	
6. Choice and competition	
7. Proposed structural change (introducing NCB, CCG's, etc)	
8. Integration	
9. Use of the private sector	
10. Public health and establishment of health and wellbeing boards	
11. Private patient cap	
12. Training, education and research	