



Royal College  
of Physicians

# Improving care for patients

The Royal College of Physicians (RCP) works with physicians, patients, hospitals and policymakers to ensure that patients receive the best possible care. We do this in many ways: by promoting best practice, auditing and accrediting clinical services, raising the standard of healthcare records, and developing evidence-based guidelines.

## Clinical audits

The RCP collaborates with hospitals across the UK, to supply data about the quality of care they provide to patients. This information is then used to determine where improvements need to be made to ensure the best outcome for patients.

Find out more about the RCP's ongoing audit programmes, and how they help patients:

- > Sentinel Stroke National Audit Programme
- > Falls and Fragility Fracture Audit Programme
- > Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease Audit
- > National Lung Cancer Audit
- > Inflammatory Bowel Disease Audit
- > National Mortality Case Record Review Programme.

Find out more: [www.rcplondon.ac.uk/audit](http://www.rcplondon.ac.uk/audit)

## Accreditation

The RCP currently offers accreditation of the following services, aiming to improve the quality, safety and outcomes of healthcare, the patient experience and service delivery:

- > endoscopy
- > occupational health
- > physiological services
- > allergy
- > immunodeficiency.

Find out more: [www.rcplondon.ac.uk/projects/accreditation](http://www.rcplondon.ac.uk/projects/accreditation)



## Future Hospital Programme

Modern patients are changing – people are living longer and need more years of care. Today's doctors manage older patients with multiple illnesses, and the systems in which they deliver care need to change to reflect this new reality. The RCP's Future Hospital Programme (FHP) implements our vision for hospital services that are structured around the needs of these changing patients by:

- > recruiting development sites that are pioneering new approaches to deliver care that meets people's physical, psychological and social needs
- > running the *Tell us your story* initiative, which collects and publishes online case studies from trusts that are using new or innovative methods to overcome challenges
- > building the Future Hospital Partners Network, to inspire a social movement towards the realisation of the Future Hospital model and principles.

**Find out more:** [www.rcplondon.ac.uk/projects/future-hospital-programme](http://www.rcplondon.ac.uk/projects/future-hospital-programme)

## Healthcare record standards

Twenty-first century patients expect those looking after them to be able to access their clinical records – regardless of the provider and location.

The RCP improves the quality of patient records, to support better, safer patient care. Our work covers:

- > healthcare record standards
- > data quality
- > new technologies
- > medical informatics education.

**Find out more:** [www.rcplondon.ac.uk/health-informatics-unit-hiu](http://www.rcplondon.ac.uk/health-informatics-unit-hiu)

## National Guideline Centre

The RCP hosts the National Guideline Centre (NGC), which is commissioned by the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) to develop evidence-based guidelines that improve the quality of patient care. Examples of the NGC's work include:

- > five guidelines covering different aspects of major trauma
- > a guideline on care of the dying adult.

The NGC also specialises in providing advice and support to healthcare providers across the globe that want to develop their own clinical guidelines.

**Find out more:** [www.ngc.ac.uk](http://www.ngc.ac.uk)

