

The RCP's Patient and Carer Network aims to provide opportunities for patients and carers to contribute meaningfully to every stage of decision making at the RCP, from the creation of projects through to their implementation and review.

Further info

To find out more about the PCN, visit the RCP website or contact the Patient Involvement Unit.

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Patient and Carer Network

Involving patients and
carers in everything we do



The Patient and Carer Network (PCN) was created in 2004 to ensure that the patient and carer voice is at the centre of all the RCP's work.

Our aim is to provide opportunities for patients and carers to contribute meaningfully to every stage of decision making at the RCP, from the creation of projects through to implementation and review.

Who are the PCN?

The PCN's members are volunteers who bring with them a range of different experiences and knowledge of health and social care services.

The PCN is made up of:

- > the PCN chair and three liaison members
- > a forum of 30 core members who meet four times a year and provide ongoing advice and challenge to the RCP
- > a wider community of 100–200 regional and alumni members who will be engaged online and have opportunities to join specific focus groups.

What does the PCN do? How can the PCN contribute to your project?

Originally created to ensure that the patient and carer voice is at the centre of all the RCP's work, the PCN:

- > promotes and supports person-centred care
- > aims to ensure that health and care services are delivered in an integrated way, caring for patients in hospitals and in the community, and supporting people to live with and manage their long-term health problems at home
- > supports the RCP's strategic aim to listen to what patients need from their doctors and the health service
- > supports the 11 principles of patient care that underpin the Future Hospital Programme
- > promotes patient safety and care by influencing the way that healthcare is designed and delivered
- > supports the development of a sustainable NHS by ensuring patients and carers have access to the information and data they need.

Members of the PCN provide the following support:

- > commenting on reviews, strategies and reports produced by the RCP
- > attending focus groups to provide in-depth feedback on draft reports, specifications and reviews
- > contributing the patient and carer view to physician examinations and education and training boards
- > providing input to regional projects supported by the RCP
- > attending training, events and conferences, to keep up to date on public health matters to be the best representatives of patients and carers possible
- > supporting the work of the RCP on committees and giving informed feedback
- > being ambassadors for the RCP and its work at external events, contributing the patient and carer view to NHS England, NICE, Healthwatch, Patient Information Forum and the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges.