



Our key policy priorities

The Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh calls on the incoming UK Government to implement the following measures to simplify the complex NHS landscape in England:

1. Funding for a sustainable future:

A radical rethink is required to declutter the many costly initiatives that are hindering the NHS in England and to address the unprecedented challenges that are impacting on the workforce and, ultimately, on patient care. A working group should be set up as a matter of urgency to find solutions to alleviate the pressures faced across the NHS. The Government must ensure that initiatives which are being pursued in the NHS have strong evidence to support them, are thoroughly evaluated for outcome, and will lead to solid and sustainable improvements in the long term.



2. Investing in the workforce:

Workforce planning needs a clear strategic direction to address recruitment and retention issues. We must ensure we have a world-class clinical workforce that values the role of EU nationals during and post Brexit negotiations. Investment in our current and future workforce is essential to create a culture where colleagues have the time to care, time to train, and time to research. Retain high quality training programmes and value our junior doctors to ensure the UK remains an attractive place to train and work.



3. Health and social care:

Collaborative working is essential to enable primary and secondary care to work more effectively in partnership with social care, improving flow and hospital discharge and ensuring that patients receive the most appropriate care for their needs. Explore new models of approaching frailty which will assist in routinely identifying those living with frailty and signposting them to the most appropriate support.



4. Health and wellbeing:

Support the reduction of food portion and pack sizes; stronger controls on price promotions; promote the sugary drinks tax and prioritise the prevention of obesity.



These measures will ensure safe, patient-centred, high quality medical care and improve public health.

Physicians are leaders within healthcare teams and engage in difficult discussions about prognosis and treatment options. Our members have identified the above four key priority areas to inform the health goals of the incoming UK Government in 2017. These measures will ensure safe, patient-centred, high quality medical care and improve public health.

The Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh is an independent clinical standard-setting body and professional membership organisation, which continually aims to improve and maintain the quality of patient care. Founded in 1681, we support and educate doctors in the hospital sector throughout the UK and the world with over 12,000 Fellows and Members in over 90 countries, covering 54 medical specialties and interests.