



## RCP Code of Conduct

---

The RCP500 Code of Conduct was first published in 2018 to mark the 500-year anniversary of the RCP. It is intended to provide a clear set of expectations as to how RCP members (in all categories) and other healthcare professionals conduct themselves when working for or representing the RCP. The standards identified should be seen as an adjunct to guidance provided by the General Medical Council (GMC) and published in documents such as *Good medical practice*,<sup>1</sup> *Leadership and management for all doctors*<sup>2</sup> and *Doctors' use of social media*,<sup>3</sup> in addition to the Nolan principles of public life.<sup>4</sup> The document does not diminish an individual's duty to act in accordance with their employing organisation's requirements and their contract of employment.

### Standards

The standards, on page 2, apply to all RCP fellows and members (in all categories). They are especially relevant when fellows and members (in all categories) and other healthcare professionals represent the RCP, work on the RCP's behalf or attend an RCP event (business or social, in any location).

The standards relate to all forms of communication including written, verbal, non-verbal, electronic and social media, particularly in the above circumstances or if there are potential implications for the RCP's reputation.

Fellows and members (in all categories) and other healthcare professionals have collective responsibility to maintain these standards. They should be aware that if they fail to meet them, after full ascertainment of the circumstances, steps may be taken to address their behaviour and appropriate sanctions applied. The RCP's ability to set rules concerning disciplinary issues derives from its bye-laws, with Council approving a scheme including a conduct and discipline procedure to be followed, in such cases.

### References

- 1 General Medical Council. *Good medical practice*. London: GMC, 2013. [www.gmc-uk.org/-/media/documents/good-medical-practice---english-20200128\\_pdf-51527435.pdf](http://www.gmc-uk.org/-/media/documents/good-medical-practice---english-20200128_pdf-51527435.pdf) [Accessed on 19 October 2021].
- 2 General Medical Council. *Leadership and management for all doctors*. London: GMC, 2012. [www.gmc-uk.org/-/media/documents/Leadership\\_and\\_management\\_for\\_all\\_doctors\\_English\\_1015.pdf\\_48903400.pdf](http://www.gmc-uk.org/-/media/documents/Leadership_and_management_for_all_doctors_English_1015.pdf_48903400.pdf) [Accessed on 19 October 2021].
- 3 General Medical Council. *Doctors' use of social media*. London: GMC, 2013. [www.gmc-uk.org/-/media/documents/gmc-guidance-for-doctors---doctors-use-of-social-media\\_pdf-58833100.pdf](http://www.gmc-uk.org/-/media/documents/gmc-guidance-for-doctors---doctors-use-of-social-media_pdf-58833100.pdf) [Accessed on 19 October 2021].
- 4 RCP document: *Nolan principles of public life: Guidance to trustees and holders of RCP positions*.

# RCP Code of Conduct

---

- > Treat others with respect and consideration
- > Recognise and value diversity and individual differences
- > Behave with integrity, honesty, kindness and patience
- > Be a role model for professional behaviours
- > Undertake our work in good conscience and to the best of our ability
- > Foster collaborative and supportive working with others
- > Promote trust and a just culture
- > Hold ourselves and others accountable for professional and personal behaviours
- > Take responsibility for the stewardship of our position of authority, mindful of our impact on others
- > Respect the RCP's standards and rules and be a guardian of its reputation