



YOUR GUIDE TO MEMBERSHIP



Protected • Always learning • Part of a Community • Shaping the future of Podiatry

WELCOME TO YOUR GUIDE TO MEMBERSHIP

Being a member of the Royal College of Podiatry links you with a long tradition of excellence, a drive for innovation and high professional standards. The College is a not for profit organisation and any surplus generated is re invested in our work to support members and promote the profession.

Joining makes you part of the leading membership organisation representing UK and overseas podiatrists. We value your participation and take seriously our responsibility to communicate our members' views. In this booklet you will find details of the benefits your membership can offer.

WE WANT OUR MEMBERS TO FEEL PART OF A COMMUNITY AND TO REALLY BENEFIT FROM THE SUPPORT, RESOURCES AND SERVICES AVAILABLE TO MEMBERS.

CONTENTS

Introduction	3
Protected	4
Learning	8
Community	14
Shaping the future of Podiatry	18
Other Benefits	21

AS A MEMBER OF THE COLLEGE YOU ARE:

Protected

Whatever happens in your career: including £15 million of malpractice insurance (for UK members), trade union membership and support with HCPC cases and audits.

Always learning

Making the most of our CPD resources, online learning, courses and journals.

Part of a community

An association of your peers, this includes networking and events nationally and through your local branch, mentoring, peer to peer support and advice.

Shaping the future of podiatry

A collective voice, lobbying and campaigning on issues affecting the profession both nationally and locally, raising its profile and supporting students.

A man in a dark suit is seen from behind, holding a large red umbrella. Several other red umbrellas are floating in the air around him against a clear blue sky. The scene is surreal and visually striking.

PROTECTED

We all know that real life never runs smoothly. So, we are here to ensure that you have access to the right advice, guidance and support to get you back on track as soon as possible. Whatever the weather, we are here to support you.



Insurance

UK practicing members of the Royal College of Podiatry, are automatically covered by the College's bespoke insurance policy that has been designed just for podiatrists. It ensures that you have the breadth and depth of cover you need to give you peace of mind whatever happens. We provide £15 million of cover as standard, which includes:

- Malpractice (also known as Professional Indemnity)
- Public liability
- Product liability
- Libel & slander
- Legal defence costs



Trade union membership

The Royal College of Podiatry is the only trade union in the UK, solely dedicated to representing podiatrists.

WE ARE HERE TO:

- Negotiate agreements with employers on pay and conditions
- Discuss major changes in the work place, such as pensions, redundancy and TUPE (Transfer of Undertakings, Protection of Employment)
- Discuss members' concerns with employers
- Accompany members in disciplinary and grievance meetings
- Provide members with legal advice
- Give contractual advice when required

Our specially trained workplace reps are podiatrists, so they understand first-hand your role, the working environment and the types of issues that you might face. We also have our Employment Relations Officers there to support you with more complex cases. They work with a legal team of employment law experts and we will provide any legal support needed* i.e. a barrister for an employment tribunal, all of which is covered by your membership.

*For members in the UK.



HCPC audit

Every two years, the HCPC audits 2.5% of registered podiatrists on their CPD. We provide dedicated support to our members who are called for audit; with advice on understanding the standards and the audit requirements and provide support and reassurance through the process until final submission. The College will be with you every step of the way and support you.



HCPC fitness to practice cases

If you are ever called before the HCPC to answer a case against you, we are there to help our members in worrying times. As soon as you receive notice of a case against you, we can offer support and advice about how to manage the process. We will provide you with professional and legal guidance, prepare you for a hearing and ensure that you have legal support throughout.



Personal injury claims

If you or a family member are unfortunate enough to suffer an injury at work, our legal team is there to see if you have a claim*. In 2023, we secured over £600k in compensation for members. You keep 100% of the money awarded. More members take advantage of this service every year. Injury in the workplace is always traumatic, and the College can help ease the burden and provide you with the best possible advice.



Free legal advice

As a member, you can obtain up to 30 minutes free telephone advice on any non-work-related legal matter. Our solicitors* offer confidential advice on criminal law, consumer law, property and land law, wills and trusts, nuisance and trespass and a host of other legal issues. Contact details can be found in the member's area of the website.

*For UK members only.



Clinical podiatric practice guidelines

All registered podiatrists must maintain the appropriate level of clinical practice to ensure patient safety. We provide detailed guidance on all 14 standards, and these are updated regularly to ensure they are always up to date and reflect any change in legislation. The College also has Professional Support Officers on hand who can provide you with advice or assistance on these areas.



Professional practice advice

We have staff dedicated to providing members with a range of guidance and support on all aspects of professional practice, including consent for treatment, data protection, clinical standards and HCPC issues.



Employer advice and guidance

If you run your own practice and employ staff, you will need to ensure that you comply

with employment law. We provide advice and guidance on the different aspects of employing staff, including recruitment, contracts, grievances and disciplinarys.



Health & Safety

We provide a range of support and guidance to ensure that you, your colleagues and patients are all kept safe; this includes advice on decontamination of instruments, infection control and risk assessments.



Wellbeing Support Services

Balancing everyday life together with the requirements of work and home can create pressures for all. Through Health Assured, all members can access a free 24/7, 365 confidential counselling helpline, putting you in touch with qualified counsellors and advisors who will be able to support you with counselling and bereavement support. Free access to a Health e-Hub app and online portal.

LEARNING

From university through to CPD after you qualify, we provide a range of high-quality educational resources.





CPD Online

We provide a range of online CPD courses; this includes dedicated individual modules and larger online conferences and events. All members also have access to eIntegrity and can access all 12 mandatory courses. These include infection control, safeguarding and conflict resolution.

TALUS - online learning management system

The College has its online learning management system, TALUS, which delivers tailored and core CPD and provides you with a dedicated space to learn and keep your CPD records.. It hosts both online courses and blended learning opportunities.

The College continues to develop new courses for members and aims to be the leader in learning for podiatrists.



CPD courses, events and conferences

We run a wide range of courses, conferences, and events each year, available online and at venues across the UK. In addition to our annual conference, providing you with three days of CPD, the College also hosts online CPD events, which can be watched live or on-demand. Our CPD modules include Foot in Diabetes, Vascular, Record Keeping, Skin Surgery and our Leadership Academy.



CPD near you

Our local branch network provides a wide range of CPD events for members in their local area. These events are updated on the RCPod website and feature in our newsletters to members. Branch events cover a variety of topics throughout the year in locations close to where you are.



Webinars

These sessions cover a range of areas, including clinical, professional, and business management and happen throughout the year. You can join these sessions from the comfort of your own home or workplace.



Accredited courses

As well as providing a wide range of CPD opportunities directly to members we also accredit external courses to check the content and learning outcomes; this gives you the reassurance that these are high-quality courses.



Mentoring

Our online mentoring platform creates a space to share knowledge and skills, with tools and guidance to support you, whether you want to be a mentor, a mentee, or both. Mentoring aims to help members with their professional development. Sharing knowledge and expertise is fundamental both

for individuals and for the profession. We will use the platform amongst other functions as a tool for our new leaders, for people wanting to become Chartered Scientists and to support research.



Annual Conference

Members receive a substantial discount to the Royal College of Podiatry's annual conference. It is the largest podiatry conference and exhibition in Europe. The three-day programme is full of renowned speakers, specialist concurrent sessions and skills-based workshops. It is also a great place to network with colleagues.



The Podiatrist

The College's Professional Membership Magazine is one of the top member benefits and a great way to access CPD. From the latest clinical articles to dedicated CPD inserts, the College prepares these specifically for its members' professional development.

Whether classroom-based, workshops, practical or online, our learning support offers different formats to meet your needs and develop your skills, with many free courses or discounts for members.





Starting your own practice

Members thinking of starting their own practice can have access to the private practice handbook. This handbook provides information on the different things you will need to do and have in place. Our Professional Officers are also on hand to offer advice and support.



Podiatric surgery

Our Deanery structure organises learning in surgery and medicine across the north, central and south of the UK for podiatric surgeons and trainees. Members can participate locally, visiting their podiatric surgery department and discuss complex cases with the Consultant-led team. Each year there's a national training day, a Faculty of Podiatric Surgery conference in spring and surgical sessions at the College's annual conference that all members can attend to continue learning in foot and ankle pathology.



Fellowships

Members have access to our Fellowship programmes leading to advanced practice, including podiatric surgery.



Journal of Foot and Ankle Research (JFAR)

Members get free access to a high quality, high impact factor journal produced by the College in partnership with the Australian Podiatry Association. It contains full research papers and summary collections of evidence. Members of the College can submit papers for consideration free of charge, the cost for non-member submissions is £1,790.00/\$2,490.00/ €2,090.00



Members' only area on the website

As a member you have access to past journals, papers and documents in the members' only area to support you in your practice.



Centre for the History of Podiatric Medicine Archives

The Centre for the History of Podiatric Medicine (CHoPM) seeks to identify, collect, and preserve original and unique records that document the history of chiropody and podiatry, as well as boot and shoemaking. The archive is available for on-site consultation by members upon request.



Best practice documents

We regularly produce best practice documents to help members to keep up to date on a range of topics including data protection, medical consent and clinical standards. Documents can be found on the Royal College of Podiatry website.



Practice Accreditation

The Practice Accreditation Scheme is a voluntary scheme that is available to all members. It aims to help practices and clinics to ensure best practice, achieve a high standard of care to patients and to ensure the correct protocols and procedures are followed to practise safely and effectively within the profession.

COMMUNITY

Connecting nearly 10,000 members as the largest community of podiatrists in the UK; this includes networking and events through your local branch, mentoring, peer to peer support and advice.





Branches - the College near you

Local branches listen to and represent your interests within the College and are a great source of support and learning in your local area. They are your 'go to' network to find other members, a place where you can share ideas, and where you can get support, encouragement and companionship.



Post-nominal letters

As a member of the College, you can use our membership post-nominal MRCPod. The use of these letters allows you to show colleagues and patients that you are a member of the College. It denotes your commitment to meeting professional standards and ongoing CPD.



Find a practice

Members working in private practice have a free practice listing on the College website



Specialist advisory groups

We have a number of specialist advisory groups, bringing together members with similar clinical interests to connect and to discuss ideas and solutions.



Online

We have a growing presence on social media via Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn where you can keep up to date with the latest news.



Support at every stage

We have groups and activities to support and represent you at each stage of your career. These include our Student Network, our Graduate Network and our Independent Practice Network.



Volunteering opportunities

As a member of the College, you have access to a wide range of volunteering opportunities. Joining in and being a volunteer can be a hugely rewarding thing to do. Members can be involved in their local branch, be a workplace rep, sit on one of our working groups or committees, provide career talks or be involved in providing podiatry support at charity events to name but a few.



Members forum

The Members' Forum takes place every two years; designed to give our members an opportunity to feedback directly to the College and to raise issues and talk about the things that matter most to them about the profession and the organisation. It is member-led and allows all of our different groups of members to engage in a variety of ways. It is your opportunity to make your voice heard.



Arch Support is our benevolent fund. It is a registered charity and every year, Arch Support provides grants to members of The Royal College of Podiatry as well as former members and dependents of deceased members. These grants give financial support and practical help during difficult times.

To access the fund or to donate, please contact Helena Basarab-Horwath by:
Email: h.basarab-horwath@rcpod.org.uk
Phone: 0207 234 8635



SHAPING THE FUTURE OF PODIATRY

On behalf of our members, we are a collective voice lobbying and campaigning on issues affecting you and the profession. We are at the forefront of the debate, ensuring that our members' views are heard loud and clear by politicians, policymakers and the public on issues relating to podiatry.





Campaigning

We ensure that podiatry is high on the political agenda, through influencing Ministers, Government arm's length bodies and policymakers. Raising the profile of podiatry is a priority for the College.



Devolved nations

We work with stakeholders in all four nations of the UK to improve services for podiatry. We understand that health and policy are delivered differently in each nation, we therefore tailor our services to be as effective as possible.



Research and audit

Being involved in research improves patient care and outcomes. Members have access to PASCOM. The PASCOM-10 web-based audit system allows you to collect CPD evidence for your practice (it provides a logbook for

clinical practice and training, and supports reflective practice). It can be used in a variety of healthcare environments including private practice, the NHS, private hospitals, GP practices, sports practices and in academia.



Foot Health Week

In 2025, we are re-launching Foot Health Week. We are going to focus on one core podiatric issue that we want the public to know about. Each year, Foot Health Week will herald the start of a year's worth of campaigning to raise awareness. Stay tuned for more information in 2025.



Leadership

In the changing healthcare landscape, the role of the podiatrist as a leader is ever more important. Our leadership work aims to provide support for leadership development for our members through courses, events and conferences, CPD and e-learning.



Inspiring tomorrow's podiatrists

We work to raise awareness and aspirations towards a career in podiatry. You can help us inspire future podiatrists by giving a career talk in your local school or offering work experience to those applying to university. We can provide guidance and resources to help support you in offering these opportunities.



Consultations

We respond to all relevant consultations and involve a wide variety of members in the process. Topics include clinical and regulatory matters and areas of public policy, where they impact on podiatry, podiatrists and the wider health ecosystem.

For more information on the types of membership available please visit:
www.rcpod.org.uk/become-a-member

Types of Membership

UK Practising Membership

For HCPC registered podiatrists working in the UK.

Overseas Membership without insurance

For UK qualified podiatrists practising outside the UK.

Mentored Membership

For podiatrists who are working towards returning to practice.

Non Practising Membership

For podiatrists taking a break from practising podiatry.

Associate Membership

For Podiatry Assistants.

Student Membership

Those currently studying towards being a podiatrist.

International Associate Membership

For podiatrists who have qualified in eligible countries overseas.

OTHER BENEFITS

As well as the other benefits outlined in this brochure, members can also access a range of discounts and special offers on a host of products and services. These benefits are designed to support you both professionally and personally. These include access to RCPod rewards as well as a number of partnership benefits that include special offers.





Membership app

Our membership app means that you can have your membership info at your fingertips whenever you need it. It includes College news, your digital membership card, the ability to update your personal details whenever you need to and easy access links to get in touch with the College either by phone or e-mail.



Payment options

To help you manage your finances, we have a variety of ways that you can pay your membership fee including spreading it over four quarterly or ten monthly direct debit payments across the year. Providing you with flexible options to suit your circumstances.



Membership certificate and badge

All members receive a membership certificate and Royal College of Podiatry badge.

RCPod Rewards

Lifestyle discounts/special offers

RCPod Rewards

<https://membersarea.rcpod.org.uk/membership/membership-benefits/college-of-podiatry-rewards>

Virtual receptionist/diary management

UK Factotum

Call 01638 576 408

www.ukfactotum/podiatry

Business insurances

James Hallam Insurance Ltd (ProMed) Call 0203 148 8995

jameshallam.co.uk/business/promed/

rcpod@jameshallam.co.uk

Car leasing

Intelligent Car Leasing

Call 0344 387 2727

www.intelligentcarleasing.com/affinity/podiatry

Login - PODIATRYLEASE



Further information:

If you would like to talk to us about membership then please get in touch.

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Tel: 0207 234 8620

Email: membership@rcpod.org.uk

Web: www.rcpod.org.uk

UK Practising • Overseas Practising • Mentored • Non Practising • Associate • Student