

RCEM Quality in Emergency Care Committee (QECC) Endorsement Policy

Purpose

Emergency Medicine specialises in treating undifferentiated patients and consequently works closely with almost every possible specialty within medicine. RCEM aims to promote high quality care and foster excellent working relationships with other specialties. The college is often asked to formally endorse guidance and policy from other national bodies. This document sets out the process and standards for joint endorsement by RCEM.

Principles

1. The ideal is that RCEM is involved in developing joint guidance or policies from the start with other external bodies.
2. RCEM will provide subject matter experts who are part of the Quality in Emergency Care Committee (QECC) to contribute to joint guidance or policies.
3. Committee members may consult other subjects matter experts from within the specialty who are not part of QECC if necessary.
4. If an Emergency Clinician joins an external organisation to provide advice, they should make it clear that they are doing this as an independent expert and not representing RCEM.
5. Guidance should be evidence based wherever possible.
6. QECC will only endorse guidance or policies that are feasible to carry out within the constraints of an Emergency Department.
7. Clinical guidance must be concise and useable by an emergency clinician whilst seeing patients.
8. Policies or operational guidance should have patients' best interests and high-quality care as their foundation.

QECC membership

QECC consists of several subcommittees who can assist in reviewing and developing joint policy or guidelines:

- Best Practice subcommittee
- Safer Care subcommittee
- Quality Assurance and Improvement subcommittee

- Paediatric Emergency Medicine professional advisory group
- Pre-hospital Emergency Care professional advisory group
- Older people in Emergency Medicine special interest group
- Mental Health professional advisory group
- Public Health special interest group
- Toxicology special interest group
- Emergency Preparedness professional advisory group

Endorsement Process

The decision to endorse a guideline or policies from an external body will be made by QECC which meets four times per year. In between meetings, decisions may occasionally be made by consensus on email. This will only be for documents that have already been discussed at QECC.

Policies and guidelines that have wider implications for Emergency Medicine will also be discussed with the Vice President for Quality or the College President who may choose to bring to council or the executive committee for a final decision.

Once agreed, RCEM will release the college badge to put on the document.

RCEM will publish all endorsed guidelines and policies on the college website under the “EM in Practice” section.

To enquire or begin an endorsement process, please email the Clinical Quality team at quality@rcem.ac.uk.