



Royal College of Anaesthetists

Devolved Nation Board addendum to “COPEs” – the RCoA policy on [Co-Authorship, Partnership, Endorsement and Support](#)

Introduction

This addendum to the COPEs policy aims to address the request made for co-authorship, partnership, endorsement and support by not-for-profit organisations for guidance documents, policies and statements that pertain solely to a devolved nation and are therefore only within the remit of the RCoA Board for that devolved nation. Educational programmes and educational material will remain under the remit of the Council process. The guiding principles related to the purpose and level of engagement should remain the same but should be only related to the individual Board.

Levels of engagement

Co-authorship or partnership

The Scottish, Welsh or NI Board has been involved in the production of the material from the start of its development, has had formal representation on the group creating the material, and has had the opportunity to comment on and edit the material during its development and to sign off the details of the material before publication and dissemination.

Co-authored and partnered material can bear a specific, adapted devolved nations College logo and can include the phrases: “Co-authored with the Scottish, Welsh or NI Board of the RCoA”, “Produced in partnership with the Scottish, Welsh or NI Board of the RCoA” or phrases with similar implications. Co-authorship and partnership also imply endorsement.

Endorsement

The devolved nation Board has been asked to endorse material in which it has not had direct involvement or representation from the start of its development but has had the opportunity to comment on draft material. The Board believes that publication of the material supports its strategic objectives in the devolved nation, and it has no significant concerns about the detailed content or its wider impact across the UK, which would require Council approval.

Material endorsed through this process can bear the specific devolved nations RCoA logo.

Support

The devolved nation Board has been asked to view completed material whose content it has had no opportunity to influence. The Board believes that the publication of the material supports its strategic objectives, but it may have some reservations about details of the material that are not of sufficient significance to cause it to reject the request for support.

Supported material may not bear the specific devolved nations College logo but can refer to the Board's support for its publication.

Process

The Chair of the Board will be the point of contact for all requests ([contact details here](#)) The Board requires at least four weeks to assess guidance and provide a response. We will therefore be unable to meet deadlines of less than four weeks from the time of request.

Care will be taken to ensure that any guidance in documents supported through the devolved nation COPES process does not clash with current College guidance or policies.

To support the process, the COPES Lead or the COPES Group Chair will be a point of contact to ensure that there is:

- 1) no clash with any current College guidance or policies
- 2) any guidance of interest or relevance to the whole Council is identified
- 3) to seek support from the rest of the COPES team if clarification or other assistance is needed

Both elected and co-opted Board members will be invited to comment on material offered to the Board for endorsement or support, with elected Board members having decision making rights.

Upon completion of the review by the devolved nations Board, the outcome and COPES Policy will be communicated to the organisation. Any material endorsed under this policy has an endorsement duration of three years or until the review date published in the material, whichever is the longer period. Requests for extensions of endorsement should be directed to the COPES Lead at copes@rcoa.ac.uk

The RCoA will maintain a list of material currently endorsed, and will publish this under the COPES section on the [RCoA website](#) (but also link this to the relevant Board page).