

RCS and Surgical Specialty Associations* Regional Specialty Professional Advisor (RSPA) Job Description

Aim

The RSPA is a Specialty Association Specialty appointment endorsed by the Royal College of Surgeons. It is one of two key roles in a partnership between the Specialty Associations and the College to create a unified voice for surgery locally and to provide advice and support on professional matters to surgeons in the workplace.

Role Description

The RSPA sits on the local Regional Board and supports the work of the Board by providing specialty input into local NHS decision-making about service provision within the region, ensuring consistency and maintenance of standards through approval of consultant and specialty doctor job plans and providing professional advice and signposting for surgeons in difficulty. The formal role of the RSPA in revalidation is yet to be defined and may include advising surgeons on revalidation requirements and signposting appropriate sources of guidance and support.

Core Activities

- To approve consultant and specialty doctor job descriptions
- To provide specialty advice to the Regional Director about provision of surgical services
- To signpost surgeons to appropriate sources of guidance on professional issues, such as job planning and career development
- To signpost professional advice and support for surgeons in difficulty

Person Specification

- A surgical consultant with demonstrable experience of delivering high quality services and a track record in leadership and medical management roles such as clinical directorship
- Membership of the appropriate Specialty Association, with experience in College/ Association business and willingness to join the Specialty Association on appointment to the role if not already a member
- A surgical consultant who has the confidence of regional colleagues and local employers
- A Fellow of a surgical Royal College of Great Britain or Ireland

- Awareness and commitment to equality and diversity legislation requirements [equality and diversity training will be provided as part of the induction to the role unless received elsewhere]
- Knowledge of policies and developments affecting surgical practice such as revalidation
- Evidence of providing teaching and training with evidence of continuing personal development

Reporting Structure

The RSPA will liaise with the Regional Director, the College Council Member for the region and the Council of the Specialty Association.

Sessional Time Commitment

It is recommended that the RSPA is provided with 0.5 of a PA in order to undertake the work related to the role, to be reviewed annually.

Appointment Process

The RSPA will be selected by the Specialty Association and endorsed by the Council of the Royal College of Surgeons of England.

Term of Office

3 + 2 years (or in line with constitutional arrangements if the RSPA is an elected member of the Specialty Association Council). A further 2 year extension can be agreed on a case by case basis – the decision to be made by the Specialty Association, with supporting input from the College.

* The 10 SAC-defined Specialty Associations

June 2018