

Deputy Director for the Centre for Perioperative Care (CPOC)

Job Description

Role: Deputy Director for the Centre for Perioperative Care (CPOC) – Surgical

Location: Primarily remote, with quarterly travel to London for meetings and ad hoc around the UK as required

Contract Type: Three years, subject to continued funding and an annual performance review. The post is renewable for no more than a second three-year term subject to the approval of the CPOC Board

Time Commitment: 1PA (approximately 4 hours per week)

Responsible to: Professionally responsible to the CPOC Director, managerially responsible to the Director of Clinical Quality and Research

Role purpose: The Deputy Director will provide strategic and clinical leadership to advance CPOC's mission. Working closely with the CPOC Director and Executive, they will oversee key workstreams, partnerships, and national initiatives. The role supports the development and delivery of education, quality improvement, research, and policy in perioperative care

Key relationships: CPOC Director, Chair of the CPOC Board, Vice Chair of the CPOC Board, CPOC Fellow, Patient Lead, CPOC Board Partners, CPOC Executive, Associate Director Clinical Quality and Research. The role will be supported by the Perioperative Care Manager

How to apply

Applicants should submit the following to CPOC@rcoa.ac.uk:

- CV
- Supporting statement about your suitability for the role (this must include contact details (daytime telephone and email address))
- Letter of support from Trust/Healthcare Board

Deadline: 03 December 2025

Interview: 08 January 2026, RCoA Offices, London

Start date: 01 February 2026

For informal enquiries, contact Carly Melbourne, Interim Director of Clinical Quality & Research, at the same email address.

About the role

There are two Deputy Director roles at the Centre for Perioperative Care (CPOC). This role is partially funded by the Royal College of Surgeons (RCS) of England and is open to RCS England members only. This role offers a unique opportunity for a senior surgical leader to help shape the future of surgical care. This role provides strategic and clinical leadership across CPOC's full portfolio of work and is a central member of the CPOC Leadership team. CPOC's strength lies in its multiprofessional governance and ethos, where success is driven by the partnership of voices from across the perioperative pathway.

This is a high-impact role for an individual with a track record of driving system-wide improvement, clinical excellence, and collaborative leadership, and who are committed to advancing integrated, patient centred perioperative care.

Specific Duties and Responsibilities

- Provide strategic leadership and drive the implementation of CPOC's Operational Plan, aligned to the overarching [CPOC Strategy](#).
- Lead CPOC's workstreams across the length of appointment, working to agreed milestones and deliverables.
- Attend and contribute to CPOC Board, CPOC Executive and weekly leadership team meetings.
- Deputise for the CPOC Director as required, including chairing meetings.
- Provide oversight and mentorship to the CPOC Fellow, ensuring alignment with CPOC's strategic objectives.
- Provide clinical advice to CPOC.
- Lead on the delivery of the CPOC's programme of events based around sharing of good practice in perioperative care.
- Work with the CPOC Director and RCoA Head of Fundraising to seek opportunities to further CPOC's aims.
- Lead the development of the CPOC Perioperative Leads Network.
- Represent CPOC and perioperative care at national and international events and meetings.
- Lead the identification and development of strategic opportunities to expand CPOC's reach and impact.
- Championing and supporting the wider development of existing perioperative pathways in the NHS.
- Developing and managing relationships with system wide external stakeholders and partners.
- Represent CPOC on relevant external working groups to support the development of perioperative care.
- Represent CPOC on the relevant RCoA Boards (Media, Membership and Development, Education, Training and Examinations and Clinical Quality and Research). This will be split between the Director and Deputy Directors.
- Dissemination and promotion of CPOC information.
- Contributing to media and lay-public enquiries in relation to perioperative care.

Assist the CPOC Director in:

- Support with the drafting and implementation of the new CPOC Strategy.
- Support the development of a strategy for CPOC's medical and allied health professional multidisciplinary education and training programmes in perioperative care.
- Support and champion the workstream to strengthen CPOC within the RCoA Functions Programme to ensure it receives consistent, business-as-usual support in its permanent home at the Royal College of Anaesthetists (RCoA).
- Support and provide clinical expertise for the development of the National Clinical Audit of Perioperative Care (NCAPC).
- Support the RCoA's policy team to develop and promote credible, evidence-based policy solutions regarding perioperative care.
- Support the development of perioperative care globally, working in partnership with global stakeholders.

Remuneration

There is no direct payment for the role. The post is supported by one Programmed Activity (PA) per week, reimbursed to the post-holder's employing Trust in order to enable the post-holder to dedicate a minimum of 4 hours per week to the work.

The role requires a flexible approach to time commitment and the workload of the role will fluctuate, with occasional peaks in activity aligned to project milestones, events, or strategic priorities.

Period of commencement and operation

The post-holder will commence their duties from 01 February 2026 for a period of three years, subject to continued funding and an annual performance review. The post is renewable for no more than a second three-year term subject to the approval of the CPOC Board.

Equality and Diversity

CPOC is committed to ensuring diversity, equity, and inclusion in all aspects of its work. We welcome applications from people of all backgrounds and experiences, especially those from communities currently underrepresented in healthcare leadership roles. This includes, but is not limited to, people from Black, Asian and minority ethnic communities, disabled individuals, LGBTQ+ people, and those with caring responsibilities or lived experience of health inequalities.

About CPOC

The development of perioperative care is driving the way healthcare is delivered nationally and internationally, changing inpatient pathways and integrating services through a multi-disciplinary team approach.

[The Centre for Perioperative Care \(CPOC\)](#) is a cross-organisational, multi-disciplinary collaborative between patients and the public, Royal Colleges and similar organisations. CPOC was established in 2019 to facilitate and promote the delivery of high-quality perioperative care; the integrated multidisciplinary management of patients from the moment surgery is contemplated through to full recovery. The [CPOC Board](#) is composed of [11 key partners](#).

CPOC is majority funded and hosted by the RCoA with financial contributions for the Deputy Director role from the Royal College of Surgeons of England.

Person Specification

Educational Requirements/Qualifications	
Full registration (without restrictions or warnings) with the relevant professional regulatory body – the General Medical Council	
Membership/Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons of England	
Evidence of relevant research within recent peer reviewed publications (<i>Desirable</i>)	
Experience	
Holder of a substantive post in a relevant surgery	
Skilled and effective clinical leader who is recognised as such by clinical colleagues	
Experience of leading management of change to services	
Experience of delivering service improvement within perioperative care	
Experience contributing to or leading the development of national or regional perioperative strategy	
Proven experience to lead, motivate, inspire and support a multi-professional team and be able to work effectively and sensitively within it	
Experience of developing clinical practice guidelines or similar documents	
Track record of delivering complex projects to time, cost and quality	
Experience of working with commissioners, regulators, or national bodies	
Skills and Knowledge	
Understanding of the national context and policy issues for the development and delivery of perioperative care	
Familiar with wider NHS structures and management and funding streams and knowledge of how to promote change within this context	
Familiar with methods of developing quality assurance, quality improvement and evidence-based clinical practice and/or public health practice	
Ability to engage in consultative work with external stakeholders	
Excellent written and verbal communication skills	
Personal Attributes	
Ability to work flexibly (with approval of local support) and independently under pressure and within deadlines	
Excellent interpersonal skills in dealing with clinicians, other healthcare workers, managers, College staff and patient and public representatives	
Ability to respond to changing agendas and priorities	
Comfortable with dealing with complex issues and direction setting	
Organisational Commitment	
Must have support of employing Trust/Healthcare Board and line manager	