



Royal College of Nursing
Shaping nursing since 1916

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8th March 2016

Dear Fraser,

Ref: Proposed Changes to Clinical Reference Groups (CRGs).

Thank you for inviting the Royal College of Nursing to comment on the proposed changes to national clinical reference groups on specialist commissioned care in England.

The RCN have provided clinical and technical input to a number of the current CRGs and we are mindful of the importance of the nursing contribution, with nursing being the largest workforce across the NHS.

We welcome the commitment to ensuring that the patient and public voice remains strong, and agree that these important representatives should be compensated financially for their time. We are mindful that some service users from some health representative groups can be marginalised in patient and public representation opportunities and encourage NHS England to ensure the voices of those service users with learning disabilities and mental health are heard. We are also mindful of the need to hear the service experiences of the frail elderly.

Whilst the RCN understands the need to rationalise the CRG structure and align to the National Programmes of Care, we are concerned that the description of collegiate involvement is numerical rather than being based on the range of professional input needed. We would remind NHS England that, whilst there are many medical Royal Colleges, there is only one Royal College of Nursing.

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We will be pleased to continue to provide vital nursing input and I look forward to hearing if our current representatives will continue to be members of the new CRGs.

Yours sincerely,



JP Nolan
Head of Nursing Practice

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