



The Royal Australasian  
College of Physicians

# **Terms of Reference**

## **eHealth Reference Group**

**TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AND MAINTENANCE  
OF A SUB-GROUP OF THE COLLEGE'S POLICY REFERENCE GROUP TO  
BE KNOWN AS THE E-HEALTH REFERENCE GROUP**

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## 1. INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE

eHealth has been a Federal and state government priority for a number of years, however it is widely accepted that the uptake and use of eHealth has been less than expected and slower than hoped. The National Electronic Health Transition Authority (NEHTA) has also been focused on general practice, and to a lesser extent pharmacy (with its work to support e-prescriptions and dispensing). Greater input from physicians (and other health professionals) is required to drive a whole-of-health approach to eHealth.

eHealth has been identified as a core driver and enabler for a key College priority – integrated care – and is a recurrent theme of health reform initiatives and debates. With the government's re-commitment to eHealth and the announcement of a new Australian Commission for eHealth (ACeH) to replace NEHTA, it is anticipated that external consultations on eHealth matters will increase.

This College eHealth Reference Group is established to increase the number of Fellows and trainees engaged with the College on eHealth matters in order to increase the College's capacity to be appropriately represented on eHealth committees, advisory groups and at meetings; support the development of rapid responses when required; and provide a broader range and depth of physician expert input to policy priorities that have eHealth aspects within their scope.

## 2. ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES

2.1. The role and responsibilities of the eHealth Reference Group are to:

- 2.1.1. Provide input to College submissions on eHealth matters;
- 2.1.2. Be a source of nominees to represent the College at eHealth-related meetings, workshops and advisory groups;
- 2.1.3. Contribute to College work on other policy priorities where eHealth is a related matter.

2.2. The Reference Group will operate in accordance with:

- 2.2.1. These Terms of Reference
- 2.2.2. The College's policies and procedures, including the *Working Together* and *Code of Conduct* policies.

## 3. EXTENT OF AUTHORITY

In accordance with the decisions of the College Policy & Advocacy Committee (CPAC) at its October 2015 meeting, the eHealth Reference Group does not have any delegated authority, and cannot:

- 3.1. Approve output
- 3.2. Convene without prior approval
- 3.3. Speak on behalf of the College without prior approval

3.4. Meet face to face without prior approval

#### **4. MEMBERSHIP**

- 4.1. The membership of the eHealth Reference Group will not be limited and Fellows and trainees with expertise and interest in the area of eHealth will be invited to join.
- 4.2. There will be no selection process undertaken, and therefore any members wishing to join will be allowed to
- 4.3. The eHealth Reference Group will be supported by College staff from the Policy & Advocacy Unit.

#### **5. DURATION**

- 5.1 The eHealth Reference Group will be established for a period of 12 months from the date of its initial promotion to members.
- 5.2 After this period, CPAC will advise whether to disestablish or continue the group and, if continued, for what period of time.
- 5.3 This process will continue until such time as CPAC determine the eHealth Reference Group should cease.

#### **6. REPORTING**

- 6.1. The eHealth Reference Group will report to CPAC.

#### **7. DEFINITIONS**

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| “College”        | means The Royal Australasian College of Physicians (ACN 000 039 047), an incorporated body limited by guarantee.   |
| “Fellow”         | means a Fellow of the College.   |
| “Trainee”        | means a person who is undertaking a program of Basic Training or Advanced Training approved by the College in order to gain Fellowship of a Division, Chapter or Faculty of the College. |
| “College Member” | means a Fellow or a Trainee  |