

The position of medical royal colleges on the role of evidence

Academy statement

10 May 2017

Evidence of what works and what doesn't has become, through formal trial and error across all professions and public services, a foundation of professional practice. Equally most untested interventions do more harm than good and are wasteful of public and private resources.

Therefore Medical Royal Colleges, as leaders of our professions, declare that our institutions expect all members to take full account of all evidence in their daily decisions and advice to individuals and organisations.

Further, because potential new policies and interventions need to be tested for effectiveness and cost benefit, we also declare that our institutions expect and will support rigorous evaluation.

To these ends we undertake to ensure that these principles are reflected as appropriate in our respective values, constitutions or conditions of membership.

Note

This statement was agreed by all members of the Academy Council.

It originates from a request from the Royal College of Surgeons of England who asked the Academy to support an initiative being undertaken by the [Alliance for Useful Evidence](#) (funded by the Big Lottery Fund, the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) and Nesta). The Alliance is a UK-wide network that promotes the use of high quality evidence to inform decisions on strategy, policy and practice, through advocacy, publishing research, sharing ideas and advice, and holding events and training.