



PCRS Membership Policy

1. Purpose

The purpose of this document is to set out the criteria, benefits, privileges and relevant terms and conditions of PCRS membership.

2. Responsibility

It is the responsibility of the delegated secretariat to execute the PCRS membership policy and related policies, under the guidance of the Executive Director. The PCRS Executive, supported by the Executive Director is responsible for the setting membership policy (including schemes /privileges, subscription rate(s)) with the approval of the Board of Trustees.

3. PCRS Membership

Membership of PCRS is open to all UK resident health professionals.

Current professions deemed eligible for membership are outlined in [Appendix 1](#)

4. Membership Schemes

There are two core membership schemes. Within the membership schemes there may be sub-classes of membership.

Premium Membership Scheme: Premium membership is offered to UK based healthcare professionals and others meeting the eligibility criteria outlined in Appendix 1 providing the full benefits of membership as outlined in section 5. Except where indicated in section 10 below, premium membership is a paid scheme.

Standard Membership Scheme: A complimentary scheme for UK and overseas individuals offering limited benefits as outlined in section 5. To be eligible for standard membership, new individual standard members must complete a registration form.

5. Benefits of Membership

PCRS members receive the following benefits:

Premium Membership Scheme	Standard Membership Scheme
Access to PCRS library of resources, containing clinical insights, best practice, opinion and guidance, written by clinical experts for clinical experts.	Access to PCRS library of resources, containing clinical insights, best practice, opinion and guidance, written by clinical experts for clinical experts.
Fortnightly e-updates with the latest in respiratory and primary care news, research and events	Monthly e-updates with the latest in respiratory and primary care news, research and events
The best value exclusive and early rates for the PCRS Annual Conference	Discount for attendance at PCRS conference
Opportunity to link with other members across the PCRS member network	Opportunity to link with other members across the PCRS member network
PCRS Membership Magazine provided in digital and hard copy for members to share in the practice*	
Complimentary membership for up to three individuals from the same practice	

Exclusive access to the highly respected PCRS leadership programme	
Early access to PCRS tools and resources such as our podcast series	
Opportunity to get involved in our committees and boards to influence and shape the future of the organisation	
Opportunity to become a formal member of the charity and influence the organization through your vote at our annual general meetings (subject to meeting the criteria for formal membership)	

* only the lead premium member receives the hard copy of the Primary Care Respiratory Update – it is up to the lead to circulate this copy in the practice

6. Applications for Membership

Application to be a member of PCRS is via online form on the PCRS website. A subscription fee or applicable discount code is payable at time of application for premium members.

Premium members are able to add up to three named individuals from within a GP practice environment to share the member benefits of premium membership (excluding the ability to become a formal member and apply for committees. Only 1 hard copy of PCRU is provided to the premium lead member)

A subscription fee is payable for premium membership unless the individual is applying to be a member as part of a Bulk Purchase Membership Scheme (See section 10 below)). For individuals applying for membership through a [Bulk Purchase Scheme](#), or at a [concessionary rate](#), an applicable discount code must be provided.

All members must provide name, address, phone number, email address and indicate their professional status and country of residence and work.

7. Formal Membership of PCRS

Formal voting membership is open to all PCRS premium lead members who are a qualified and registered (or in the case of retired members formerly registered) healthcare professional resident in the UK and working or interested in respiratory care in a primary, community or integrated care setting and / or general practice - provided they are not employed by a pharmaceutical company or associated agency and have no connection with the tobacco industry. A list of healthcare professionals that are considered acceptable for Formal Membership is outlined in [Appendix 1](#).

Formal voting members are able to join PCRS committees including the Executive Committee, vote at the AGM and to elect members of PCRS Executive.

8. Exclusion criteria for Formal Membership

Formal Members have an opportunity to influence the direction and work of the PCRS in a way that non-Formal members do not. In order to preserve the expertise of the Society, ensure its continued relevance for the purpose for which it was established and to protect the interests, integrity and independence of the Society, the following Members are not eligible to be Formal Members of PCRS:

- those who are currently employed (full or part-time) by a pharmaceutical or device company (or their agencies)

- those who have received sponsorship, payment in kind, are, or have been, employees or paid consultants (full or part-time) to the tobacco industry in the last 12 months
- Individuals whose subscriptions are paid by their employer or a third party through a bulk purchase scheme (see 10b below) or a lead premium member
- Corporate Supporter Members (see 10c below)
- Student members (see 10e below)
- Those who are not paying lead members of the PREMIUM membership scheme

9. Applications for Formal Membership

PREMIUM Members may apply to be Formal Members by completing the Declaration of Formal Membership online. (See [Appendix 2](#) for Declaration of Formal Membership)

PREMIUM Members will be offered the opportunity to become Formal Members and complete the Declaration of Membership upon joining PCRS as a member. Formal membership must be approved by Trustees (via the Executive Director) in accordance with the Articles of Association. The Trustees may in their absolute discretion decline to accept any person as a member.

10. Other Classes of Membership

PCRS also operates the following classes of memberships (in accordance with Article 2.(3) of the Articles of Association.

- a. **Honorary Members** – Members appointed as life-long honorary members under the Honorary membership policy (<https://www.pcrs-uk.org/sites/default/files/2025-01/Honorary%20Membership%20Policy%202025.pdf>)
- b. **Bulk Purchase Scheme Members** – individuals that join PCRS as members under a Bulk Purchase Scheme purchased by their employer or a third party. A bulk purchase may number two or more memberships. There are two sub-categories of bulk purchases:
 - i. Bulk (health professional): the subscriptions for an agreed number of PCRS memberships are funded and offered to health professionals by a third party (e.g. pharmaceutical company, ICB, commercial organisation contracted to deliver NHS healthcare services).
 - ii. Bulk (employee): an organisation purchases an agreed number of PCRS memberships for its employees.
- c. **Corporate Supporter Members** – members by virtue of their named association with a company that is a named sponsor of PCRS. Sponsors or Associate Sponsors may nominate up to 5 members of staff to become PREMIUM members of PCRS.
- d. **Complimentary Members** – complimentary (time limited) premium membership given at the discretion of the Executive Director or Executive for the purposes of progressing the charitable objectives of the Society (i.e.. partnerships, collaborations, information sharing etc)
- e. **Concessionary Membership Classes**
 - a. **Student Members** – Offered discounted membership on proof of student status
 - b. **Retired Members** – Individuals that have been members for 3+ years and wish to extend their membership beyond their retirement.

All of the above with the exception of Bulk Scheme Members, Corporate Supporter Members and Student Members may apply to be a Formal Member of PCRS subject to the member meeting the criteria set out in 7 above and completing the online declaration.

11. Non UK Residents

Non-UK residents are **not** eligible to be premium members of PCRS. Non-UK residents may join the PCRS standard membership scheme subject to the completion of the registration form.

12. Contact Database and Personal Data

PCRS maintains contact details and personal data related to individuals and organisations associated with PCRS in its Contact Database. The Charity, in accordance with article 2(1), maintains a register of Formal Members within its database. The database and the data within it, is maintained in accordance with PCRS Data Protection Policy and Privacy Policy.

13. Subscription Rates

In accordance with Article 2.(6) of the Articles of Association, PCRS may levy subscription rates for PCRS membership. PCRS works hard to raise money through sponsorship and grant funding to ensure that membership fees are kept as low as possible. PCRS operates a flat subscription rate for all premium members. A small discount is offered for members paying by direct debit reflecting the lower administration for such transactions. PCRS also offer concessionary rates for students (with proof of full-time student status) and retired professional members.

Membership subscriptions are reviewed on an annual basis by the Executive Director and Executive Committee and any recommended changes put to Trustees for approval. Any changes are generally kept in line with inflation, e.g. Retail Price Index (RPI) and/or at market rates. PCRS offers the following subscription rates:

- a. **Standard Subscriptions** – Standard subscription rates are promoted (e.g. published on website) inclusive of VAT. VAT is applicable at the standard rate. The standard subscription rate is provided in [Appendix 3](#).
- b. **Concessionary Rate** – PCRS can offer a 25% discount for full-time students and members who are retired. Individuals who believe they are eligible for these discounts should contact PCRS for details of how to apply. PCRS will ask for proof of student status – students must be in full time education. Retired members must have been a premium member for at least 3 consecutive years prior to retirement.
- c. **Subscriptions for Bulk Purchase Schemes** – Bulk schemes memberships are purchased via a third-party organisation (e.g. a company or NHS employer) and must be paid via a single invoice. Applications for bulk purchase membership must be approved by the Executive Director. Bulk membership fees are quoted exclusive of VAT. VAT at standard rate is added on to the final invoice.
- d. **Discounted Group Subscriptions (for Bulk Purchase Schemes)** – PCRS may offer discounted rates on bulk purchase membership of more than 10 memberships, i.e. if a company, third party or employer wishes to purchase more than 10 memberships for its employees or health professionals, the following discounts may at the discretion of the Executive Director be applied (before VAT).
 - 10 memberships - 5%
 - 25 memberships - 15%
 - 50+ memberships - 25%

Honorary life members and complimentary premium memberships are offered free of charge for the duration of the membership – in the case of Honorary members this is for life and for complimentary members, this is renewable annually with approval from Executive Director.

13. Payment terms

a. Method and frequency of subscription payments

All members must pay on application or provide a relevant and applicable discount code.

Subscriptions are paid on a 12 monthly basis, via a choice of payment methods online. Payment methods include:

- on-line bank payment (including bacs),
- credit card via PayPal

- Direct debit.

Reminders that an individual's subscription is due are sent out automatically one month in advance of the renewal date.

b. Membership Renewal/Membership Expiry

Members are invited to renew their membership one month, two weeks and 1 day prior to the renewal date.

If a member fails to renew their membership, they will receive a grace period of one month to make payment.

If no payment is received within one month of membership expiry, the individual will be informed that their premium membership has expired, and the individual transferred to the standard membership scheme. Individual contact details are retained on the Contact Database in accordance with the PCRS Data Protection Policy and PCRS Data Retention Policy.

c. Reinstatement

Where an individual has ceased to be a premium member because of failure to pay the appropriate subscription, they will be reinstated as a premium member on payment of the subscription. Back issues of the PCRU and/or other premium member exclusive tools will not be provided for any periods of non-payment.

d. Refunds

Only in extreme situations are refunds of subscription paid, ie; -

- Duplication of subscriptions for the same premium membership scheme, e.g. where employer purchases memberships for employees and the individual has already paid their subscription in which case the refund is usually made to the individual.
- Other situations, e.g. long-term sickness absence may be considered at the discretion of the Executive Director

Refunds will not be given to individuals who are offered complimentary premium memberships or awarded honorary memberships part way through a 12-month subscription. Such individuals will qualify for complimentary or honorary membership from the date of their next renewal.

Reviewed by PCRS Executive: 12th February 2025

Approved by PCRS Trustees: 4th March 2025

Date of next review: March 2028

The Primary Care Respiratory Society UK. Registered Charity: 1098117

Company No: 4298947 VAT Registration Number 866 1543 09

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Appendix 1 – Professions eligible for PCRS Formal Membership

Table also shows eligibility for formal membership.

GP	YES
Respiratory Specialist Doctor	YES
Integrated Care Physician	YES
Other Qualified Doctor	YES
Practice Nurse	YES
Nurse Practitioner (General Practice)	YES
Respiratory Nurse Specialist	YES
Other Qualified Nurse	YES
Pharmacist	YES
Respiratory Specialist Physiotherapist	YES
Other qualified registered health professional	YES
Retired GP, nurse, other qualified health professional	YES
Other supervised clinical role (e.g. healthcare assistant, emergency care practitioner, physician assistant)	YES
Non-Clinician (e.g. research researcher, commissioner, manager)	YES
Pharmaceutical or device company or agency thereof	NO
Student (nonregistered/non-qualified)	NO

Appendix 2 – Declaration of Formal Membership

If you are a qualified and registered healthcare professional resident in the UK and working or interested in respiratory care in a primary, community or integrated care setting and / or general practice, provided you are not employed by a pharmaceutical company, device company or associated agency and have no connection with the tobacco industry, you may apply to become a "voting member" (sometimes referred to as "formal" or "company" membership) of PCRS. In addition to the benefits enjoyed by all other members "voting" members have a "say" in the business of the organisation and, for example, are responsible for electing the members of the Executive and the trustees as well as voting on motions at the annual general meeting (AGM).

Anyone joining (or renewing their membership) who does not wish to apply to become a voting member, or who is not eligible is entitled to the same benefits as "voting" members with the exception of voting rights.

The declaration below allows you to indicate if you wish/do not wish to be a formal member. Those wishing to be formal members must complete the accompanying declaration statements to be eligible for formal membership.

I hereby apply for formal membership of the Primary Care Respiratory Society UK Limited

☐

Yes

☐

No

If you have selected yes above and you wish to apply for formal membership you **must** complete all sections of the declaration below. We are unable to process applications for formal membership that do not have all sections of the declaration completed and checked

Declaration of membership

☐

I confirm that I am a qualified and registered healthcare professional resident working in the UK / or interested in respiratory care in a primary, community or integrated care setting and/or general practice

☐

I confirm that I am not employed (full or part-time) by a pharmaceutical company or device company (or their agencies)

☐

I confirm that I am not an employee or paid consultant to (full or part-time) the tobacco industry, nor have I received any sponsorship or payment in kind from the tobacco industry in the last 12 months

☐

I work in or closely with a primary, community or integrated care team and / or general practice / or in a connected/relevant research setting

☐

I agree to become a member subject to the company's Memorandum and Articles of Association and request you to enter my name in the Company's Register of Members.

Appendix 3 Current Subscription rates

Annual Membership Fees

Rates including VAT at 20% on applicable elements of membership fee

Member Type	All payment methods
PCRS Membership	
PCRS premium membership rates For individuals with a specific interest in respiratory care, hard copies of our journal, PCRU, Fortnightly digital mailing, In Touch, exclusive discounts for events and meetings, prior access to resources, podcasts and webinars and access to our respiratory leaders and mentorship programmes.	£59.00 /£54 if paying by Direct debit
Concessionary Retired Premium Membership rate For retired members who have previously been a premium member of PCRS for more than 3 years. Retired membership will provide access to all the benefits of premium membership outlined above, upon retirement, enabling those who have enjoyed a career in respiratory medicine to continue to support the charity and maintain their interest and knowledge in the area.	£44.25 per year
Concessionary Student Premium Membership rate For full time students on receipt of proof of student status (in full time education) – membership benefits as outlined above.	£44.25 per year