

Centre for Perioperative Care (CPOC) Patient Lead Job Description and Person Specification

Job Title:	Patient Lead
Organisation	Centre for Perioperative Care (CPOC)
Location:	Primarily remote, with occasional travel to London for meetings and ad hoc around the UK as required
Type:	Voluntary (reasonable expenses reimbursed)
Time Commitment:	Approx. 8 hours per month, including quarterly Board and Executive meetings
Tenure:	3 years (renewable once, up to a maximum of 6 years, subject to appraisal)
Start Date:	01 December 2025

How to Apply

Submit:

- A personal statement (max 450 words) outlining your interest in the role and what you would bring to it
- Summary of your professional and voluntary experience (maximum 2 pages)

Email: CPOC@rcoa.ac.uk

Deadline: 21 September 2025

Interview: 16 October 2025 (to be held virtually)

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

Role Summary

[The Centre for Perioperative Care \(CPOC\)](#) is seeking an enthusiastic and committed individual to serve as Patient Lead. This voluntary leadership role is central to ensuring that the patient voice is embedded in all aspects of CPOC's work. The Patient Lead will represent patients on the CPOC Board, chair the Patient & Public Engagement Network (PPEN), and guide the team of patient representatives.

Key Responsibilities

- Represent the patient voice at CPOC Board and Executive meetings.
- Chair and lead the Patient & Public Engagement Network (PPEN).
- Develop and deliver the PPEN's programme of work, focused on improving outcomes for surgical patients before, during, and after surgery.
- Collaborate and build relationships with a diverse range of clinical and non-clinical stakeholders to influence perioperative care policy and practice.

- Champion the views and experiences of underrepresented and marginalised patient groups, ensuring their voices inform perioperative care policy and practice.
- Contribute to strategic planning and decision-making from a patient perspective.
- Participate in bi-weekly virtual leadership meetings and quarterly in-person or virtual board and executive meetings.
- Inspire, support and mentor the patient representatives.
- Contribute to CPOC communications (e.g. blogs, presentations, articles, interviews).
- Represent CPOC and patient views at national forums, conferences, and external working groups

Person Specification

Essential

- A strong interest in the NHS and high-quality healthcare delivery.
- Understanding of or willingness to learn about perioperative care and the UK healthcare system.
- Ability to identify patient-led projects, inspire patient representatives to implement them, and manage the projects through to completion and review.
- Experience leading a team or group, including facilitating discussion or chairing meetings. This may include roles in community, voluntary, or professional settings outside healthcare.
- Ability to represent an unbiased patient perspective and understanding of the causes of health inequality and inequity of access to NHS care.
- Excellent communication skills across various formats and audiences.
- Confidence to engage with senior clinical and policy stakeholders.
- Willingness to share insights from lay or lived experience to inform decision making and service improvement.
- Ability to work collaboratively with multidisciplinary teams and support consensus decision making.
- Competence in using Microsoft Teams, Word, and email, with personal internet access.

Desirable (but not essential)

- Previous involvement in patient advocacy or healthcare improvement initiatives.
- Lived experience as a patient, carer, or advocate within wider healthcare settings.
- Experience navigating healthcare services from a non-clinical perspective.

About CPOC

[The Centre for Perioperative Care \(CPOC\)](#) is a national, multidisciplinary initiative hosted by the Royal College of Anaesthetists (RCOA) and established in 2019. CPOC brings together healthcare professionals, national organisations, and patients to improve perioperative care: the integrated, holistic care of patients from the moment surgery is contemplated through to full recovery. CPOC is a collaboration of [11 key partner organisations](#), which together form the [CPOC Board](#).

At its core, CPOC is driven by the belief that patients must be partners in shaping their care. The Patient Lead plays a pivotal role in embedding this ethos across all CPOC activities.

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.

Core Traits of a Strong Patient Lead

1. Empathy and Compassion

- Deep understanding of patient experiences and emotions.
- Ability to advocate for diverse patient needs with sensitivity.

2. Strong Communication Skills

- Clear and confident in both written and verbal communication.
- Able to translate complex clinical or policy language into accessible terms.
- Comfortable speaking in public or in board-level discussions.

3. Strategic Thinking

- Understands the bigger picture of healthcare systems and policy.
- Can contribute meaningfully to strategic planning and decision-making.

4. Collaborative and Inclusive

- Works well with multidisciplinary teams, including clinicians, policymakers, and other patients.
- Encourages diverse perspectives and fosters inclusive dialogue.

5. Credibility and Integrity

- Trusted to represent the patient voice authentically and responsibly.
- Maintains confidentiality and professionalism.

6. Leadership and Influence

- Capable of chairing meetings and leading patient engagement initiatives.
- Inspires and supports other patient representatives.

7. Adaptability and Resilience

- Comfortable navigating change and uncertainty in healthcare environments.
- Resilient in the face of challenges or differing opinions.

8. Digital Literacy

- Proficient with tools like Microsoft Teams, email, and document sharing platforms.
- Able to participate in and lead virtual meetings and contribute to online discussions.