

Clinical Standards Committee (Responsible Trustee and Chair: Vice President for Clinical Standards - Dr Neil Swanson)

The British Cardiovascular Society (BCS) is a membership organisation with charitable status. The BCS is the voice for all those working in the fields of cardiovascular care and research in the UK; we aim to represent and support both the professionals who work in cardiology and the patients for whom we want to encourage the best possible treatment. Our mission includes enhancing and maintaining the highest standards in training, education and research for the benefit of patients and to be the primary source of professional advice and advocacy in the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of cardiovascular disease.

The work deriving from the Clinical Standards Committee is crucial in supporting this vision and our strategic aims.

The Clinical Standards Committee is responsible for advising the Board about national clinical and professional standards for individual and organisational practice in cardiovascular healthcare. The Committee reviews clinical and professional standards published by national organisations and advises on regulatory and professional matters, which could affect the practice of cardiovascular healthcare in the UK.

The Committee aims to promote patient safety, high professional standards which are consistent with guidance from the General Medical Council and other regulatory bodies, and high clinical standards which are consistent with contemporary clinical practice guidelines. Its work also involves addressing serious incidents and patient concerns. The Committee aims to influence NHS policy, keeping cardiovascular care high on its agenda.

Most of the work of the Clinical Standards Committee is undertaken by email. The committee meets formally twice per year. Other meetings may be held according to need. In the last couple of years, these meetings have been held virtually.

At least 75% attendance is expected for meetings and email work combined.

Committee members report to: Chair/Vice President for Clinical Standards.

The VP for Clinical Standards reports to: the Operational Executive Committee (operational) and Board of Trustees (sets and approves strategy).

Eligibility for standing: In order to stand for elected posts on the BCS Clinical Standards Committee applicants must be Ordinary or Affiliate Members of the BCS.

Elected members serve a term of three years.