



ABCD (Diabetes Care) Ltd Membership Policy

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

The Association of British Clinical Diabetologists is the national organisation of Consultant Physicians in Britain who specialise in Diabetes Mellitus. Most are also Acute General Physicians, and many are also Specialists in Endocrinology and Lipid Metabolism.

ABCD is the UK's leading specialist association of clinical and academic diabetologists representing Diabetologists in national health decision making by influencing health policy and improving clinical practice at the highest levels in the organisation of the NHS. We support the growth of local secondary care diabetes services to provide leadership and guidance for local diabetes communities. As a membership organisation of diabetes specialists who also practice endocrinology, general medicine and acute medicine we understand the resulting multiple pressures particularly in the current financial climate.

Membership Criteria

Full Membership of ABCD is open to Consultants in Diabetes, Endocrinology and associated specialties, as well as SpRs or other trainees in these specialties working in the United Kingdom.

- Full members are required to submit details of their GMC Number. ABCD reserves the right to verify membership application data and will reject applications that are found to be fraudulent.

Associate membership is open to UK nurses and allied healthcare professionals who work predominantly in diabetes healthcare/management in NHS primary, secondary or tertiary care. Associate membership is also available to clinical and non-clinical university academics working in diabetes research.

- Associate members are required to submit details of their registration with their governing body (including, but not limited to NMC, HCPC, AHPF or university registration number). ABCD reserves the right to verify membership application data and will reject applications that are found to be fraudulent.
- Associate membership is only available to those who work within the NHS in UK primary care, secondary care or tertiary care or within UK based academia – associate membership is **NOT** available to those working for commercial organisations or anyone working outside the UK

International membership is open to consultant physicians in diabetes, endocrinology and associated specialties, or trainees in these specialties working outside the United Kingdom.

- International members are required to submit details of their registration with their national governing body. ABCD reserves the right to verify membership application data and will reject applications that are found to be fraudulent.

Membership Rates

ABCD Full and Associate Membership is charged at £75.00 per annum.

Reduced fees available for eligible SpRs or other trainees (£25.00 per annum) and retired consultants (£40.00 per annum).

Benefits of Full Membership

- Exclusive discounted member rates for all our educational events (digital and in-person) designed for busy clinicians which offset the annual subscription.
- Hard copy subscription to The British Journal of Diabetes
- Monthly e-newsletter helping to keep members up to date with current diabetes news and events.
- Access to member-only resources on the ABCD website.
- Structured development programme supporting SpRs and newly appointed consultants through a lifelong learning programme including our highly respected Diabetes Update meeting for trainees, our consultant development programme and other ongoing training programmes.
- Speciality support for revalidation.
- Access to other ABCD members via the online directory.
- Meetings and travel grants of up to £1000 for attendance at international meetings.
- Networking with fellow diabetologists who face the same pressures throughout the UK at the 3 meetings each year.
- Opportunity to apply for ABCD research grants.
- Opportunities to contribute to and learn from national audits of new therapies.
- Opportunities to set up and run your own nationwide audits and collaborate with other ABCD members on audits and research.
- Opportunity to influence the organisation by joining our committees and voting at the Annual General Meeting.

Associate Membership Benefits

Associate members are able to access all the benefits of full membership except committee membership and voting at the AGM. Associate members in training roles would be eligible for travel grants. Associate members, however, may be co-opted to committees to support the work of the organisation. Priority for attending educational meetings, courses, events, and development programmes will be given to full members.

International Membership Benefits

International members are able to access the same benefits as associate members but do not receive a hard copy of British Journal of Diabetes (the journal is available free online however).

Applying for Membership

- Members can join ABCD [online](#) using the webform on the ABCD website.
- By providing personal information in the application process, the applicant certifies that this information is true and correct. Please view ABCD's [Privacy Policy](#) for details on how personal information is stored and used by the organisation.
- ABCD reserves the right to validate membership application information and will revoke membership for any applications where details are found to be fraudulent.

- A person shall be deemed to have become a member upon payment of the annual subscription.
- Membership is not transferable and is valid for 12 months from the date of joining.

Payment terms

- All members must pay on application.
- Subscriptions are paid on a 12-monthly basis, via a choice of payment methods online. Including, via PayPal; on-line bank payment / invoice (BACs); or cheque.
- Reminders that an individual's subscription is due are sent out automatically one month in advance of the renewal date.
- Members are invited to renew their membership one month, two weeks and 1 day prior to the renewal date. Reminder emails will also provide a link to a survey asking members who choose not to renew to give feedback on their membership experience.
- 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 membership has expired.
- Once an SpR or trainee has completed their training, they are no longer eligible to receive the reduced membership fee and therefore, once subscription renewal is due, should renew their membership at the General Membership rate.
- Where an individual has ceased to be a member because of failure to pay the appropriate subscription, they will be reinstated as a member on payment of the subscription.

Refunds

Only in extreme situations are refunds of subscription paid, i.e.:

- Duplication of subscriptions for the same 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 ABCD trustees.
- Refunds will not be given to individuals who are offered complimentary 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.

Members' responsibilities:

Members are expected to:

- Ensure prompt payment of membership fees.
- Keep personal information provided to ABCD up to date.
- Act as ambassadors and advocates of ABCD.
- Conduct themselves with integrity and professionalism in a manner, which does not damage or undermine the reputation ABCD (Diabetes Care) Ltd using inclusive and courteous behaviours.

Votes of members

- Only full members of ABCD have voting rights.
- Every full member shall have one vote.
- No full member shall be entitled to vote at any general meeting unless the membership fee and/ or any other payments due have been paid.

Termination of Membership:

- If the subscription of any member shall not have been paid within one month of the due date, then the trustees, may, at their discretion, declare the person has ceased to be a member of ABCD and all benefits of membership shall cease.
- Trustees, at their discretion may decide to terminate a person's membership at any time should they:
 - Act in a way that does not align with ABCD's values.
 - Act in a way that could cause harm to ABCD or its members.
 - Be found to have provided false information in their application.

If a member's account is terminated by the trustees, then that person must not re apply for membership.

Approved by ABCD Directors: 19th January 2024

Approved by ABCD Committee : 11th March 2024