

The RCGP have recently published the **RCGP Safeguarding Standards for Primary Care**.
[RCGP safeguarding standards for general practice \(1/10/24\)](#).

This important document builds on the Inter-Collegiate Documents (ICDs) for Safeguarding Children and Young People and for Safeguarding Adults, recognising that primary care is ideally placed to deliver holistic care whilst being one part of the jigsaw of agencies working with our populations. The RCGP Safeguarding Standards pull the importance of safeguarding children, young people and adults into one document and sets out a framework for Safeguarding in General Practice.

The training hours requirement over a 3 year cycle are now removed for those working at levels 1-3 and are replaced with an emphasis on training at induction and thereafter an annual update +/- reflection dependant on role. This is set out within the **RCGP Safeguarding Toolkit**: [RCGP Safeguarding toolkit: Key questions in safeguarding | RCGP Learning](#).

As a GP Locum, you should be working at Level 3.

The RCGP recommended training requirements for L3 are as follows:

Induction:

When working at a new practice for the first time, safeguarding should be included in the practice/organisation induction. If possible, (depending on locum tenure), you should attempt to meet with the practice/organisational safeguarding lead, their deputy, **or** other relevant senior leader to discuss the safeguarding structure, policies and procedures within the practice/organisation (including how to make a safeguarding referral).

Annually:

- You should complete an annual safeguarding update: this could be by any one of the means on the attached list:



SG CPD
opportunities for Prir

AND:

- Completion of the Safeguarding Structured Reflective Template ([Safeguarding Reflective Practice - Structured Template 1.docx](#)) to demonstrate reflection and learning across the breadth of all the five areas of safeguarding knowledge and capabilities (listed below). This reflective template must include both child and adult safeguarding issues, even if you only work with adults.
- There is also a Structured Template for Safeguarding Case Review which can be used for particular cases [Safeguarding Case Review - Structured Template 1.docx](#)

The specific competency requirements in the ICDs have been replaced by standards of safeguarding knowledge and capabilities around 5 core areas:

1. Professional safeguarding responsibilities

- Understanding statutory, legal, professional and employment safeguarding responsibilities and duties, including the obligation to act when there is a safeguarding concern
- Preventing abuse and neglect as far as possible through timely action and intervention
- Accounting for the influence of personal beliefs, experience and attitudes
- Maintaining individual wellbeing
- Supporting colleague wellbeing

2. Identification of abuse and neglect

- Recognising indicators and signs of all types of abuse and neglect in children and adults
- Identifying children and adults who may be more vulnerable to abuse and neglect
- Applying principles of consent, confidentiality and capacity in relation to safeguarding
- Mitigating barriers to healthcare faced by victims and survivors of abuse
- Understanding the lifelong impact of abuse
- Learning from those with lived experience of abuse
- Practicing in a trauma informed way
- Applying relevant legislation
- Being vigilant and addressing organisational / institutional abuse / neglect

3. Responding to abuse and neglect

- Acting when there is a safeguarding concern
- Talking to children, adults, families, parents and carers about abuse
- Following local referral processes for child and adult safeguarding
- Contributing to the lifelong holistic care needed by victims and survivors of abuse
- Seeking advice and guidance and escalating concerns when necessary
- Promptly acting on, and responding appropriately to, any concerns or allegations about persons in a position of trust

4. Documenting safeguarding concerns and information

- Documenting safeguarding concerns accurately and safely in the patient record
- Managing safeguarding documents in line with best practice in information governance and data protection
- Proactively addressing safeguarding challenges of patient online access including coercion to access records

5. Information sharing and multiagency working

- Participating in multi-agency and multi-disciplinary working
- Sharing information appropriately and proactively in a safeguarding context
- Contributing to safeguarding reviews
- Learning from safeguarding serious case reviews (local and national)