
Constitution

Amended 06 October 2021

1) The Charity shall be called "HealthSense UK."

2) The aim of HealthSense shall be:

The advancement for the public benefit of medical knowledge, training and care in all its branches and in particular the development of good practices in the assessment and testing of treatments and the conduct of clinical trials generally and the promotion of high standards of health care by practitioners.

The Constitution of HealthSense may be amended as necessary by not less than two thirds of those present and voting at a properly constituted Annual or Special General Meeting of HealthSense.

The Aims will be reviewed annually PROVIDED THAT no alteration shall be made which would have the effect of causing HealthSense to cease to be a Charity at law.

3) Membership of HealthSense shall be open to the following persons whose application has been approved by a properly constituted subcommittee of the Executive Committee.

a) Ordinary Members: Ordinary membership shall be open to people who share the aims of HealthSense. They shall have voting rights, and pay a subscription fee to be determined each year by the Executive Committee ("the Committee"). Members shall express an interest in furthering the work of HealthSense.

b) Student Members: Student membership will be open to bona fide students who share the aims of HealthSense. Student members will have voting rights, and have complimentary membership for as long as they are students, receiving the Newsletter by email only. Student members shall express an interest in furthering the work of HealthSense.

c) Life Members: Life membership shall be conferred upon those Ordinary members of HealthSense who have shown conspicuous performance in advancing the interests of HealthSense. They shall be selected by a Sub-Committee appointed by the Committee, for approval by simple majority at the AGM. They shall have voting rights but pay no subscription fee.

4) The Annual General Meeting of HealthSense shall be held each year, at a time and place to be determined by the Committee.

One twentieth of the members constitutionally entitled to vote shall constitute a quorum. If no quorum is formed, then the Committee shall call another AGM within four weeks of the original date.

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- 5) Voting at the AGM shall be by Ordinary, Student and Life members. Each shall have one vote.
- 6)
- a) The business of HealthSense shall be conducted and managed by the Executive Committee ("the Committee") who may exercise all such powers of HealthSense and do on behalf of HealthSense all such acts as may be exercised and done by HealthSense and as are not by these rules required to be exercised or done by HealthSense in general meeting.
 - b) The Committee shall consist of the officers of HealthSense and between eight and twelve other members elected from the ordinary membership.
 - c) The officers of HealthSense shall be the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman, the Secretary and the Treasurer who shall be elected annually from the ordinary members of HealthSense, and who shall take up office immediately after the Annual General Meeting at which they are elected. Neither the Chairman nor the Vice Chairman may hold office for more than three consecutive years.
 - d) Nominations for office and for membership of the committee shall be submitted to the Secretary not less than 28 days before the Annual General Meeting. Such nominations shall be endorsed by at least two members of HealthSense.
 - e) In the event of the number of persons nominated to be officers or members of the Committee exceeding the number of vacancies the officers and members of the Committee shall be elected by secret ballot at the Annual General Meeting of HealthSense. Voting shall be by single transferable vote.
 - f) The Committee shall have the power to co-opt up to three members from any category of membership (other than corporate membership) and to make good vacancies on the Committee caused by death or resignation. Co-opted members and acting officers shall hold office until the next Annual General Meeting.
 - g) The Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer shall be signatories to HealthSense's Bank Account and shall be empowered to make payments on behalf of HealthSense. Where payments are required to the officers of HealthSense, or for payments in excess of £500 for any purpose, two signatures shall be required.
- 7) As agreed at the Annual General Meeting in October 2006, independent examination of the accounts, rather than a full audit of the accounts, is sufficient under current Charity Law.
- 8) The Committee shall meet at least six times a year at such times and places that the committee shall determine. There shall be a quorum of four. Voting shall be by simple majority of those present. In the event of a tie the Chairman shall have a second or casting vote.
- 9) HealthSense may appoint advisors. Advisors should normally be members of HealthSense, but non-members may be recruited at the discretion of the Committee. Advisors shall be empowered to speak on behalf of HealthSense on topics to be agreed between the advisor and the Committee.
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- 10) Committee Members may be delegated by HealthSense to speak on behalf of HealthSense. Other members are not empowered to speak on behalf of, or otherwise represent, or intentionally appear to represent HealthSense without prior agreement of the Committee.
 - 11) A member against whom a complaint is made that they are bringing the reputation of HealthSense into disrepute, or behaving in a manner contrary to the aims of HealthSense, may be called before a Disciplinary Committee of four members of the Committee which shall recommend a subsequent course of action to the Committee. A complaint must be made in writing, and signed by the complainant. The Disciplinary Committee shall have the power to recommend to the Committee that the member shall be warned, suspended or expelled. The Committee shall have the power to suspend or expel members. A member whose membership is terminated by the Committee shall be barred from future membership for a minimum of three years.
 - 12) A Special General Meeting of HealthSense may be called by a quorum of the Committee at three weeks notice to consider any matter which they consider to be necessary. Such a meeting shall be called by the Secretary within two months of the receipt in writing of a request from six members of HealthSense. A written statement of the business of the meeting shall be sent to all members at least three weeks before the date of the meeting.
 - 13) HealthSense shall be empowered to:
 - a) Raise funds and receive contributions, (not necessarily only by way of subscription) and to take and accept gifts, provided that the charity shall not undertake any permanent trading activities in raising funds for its object.
 - b) Hold conferences and meetings and to be represented by member(s) of HealthSense at conferences and meetings of other organisations.
 - c) Promote or conduct research, and to publish the results of such research.
 - d) Collect and disseminate information.
 - e) Publish and circulate books, periodicals or films.
 - f) Issue statements of policy upon certain topics of relevance to the work, aims and objectives of HealthSense. These will be produced as and when the Committee agrees, subject to the approval of their contents by the Committee.
 - g) Reduce or waive membership fees in special circumstances.
 - h) Do all such things as are necessary for the attainment of HealthSense's aims.
 - 14) In the event of HealthSense ceasing to exist, any remaining assets shall be donated to King Edward's Hospital Fund for London ("The King's Fund") or to such other charity as the committee shall decide.
 - 15) Changes to the constitution will require the approval of the AGM or a Special General Meeting.
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*Promoting science and integrity
in healthcare since 1991*

Change history

Date	Change
29 October 2019 (2019 AGM)	Paragraph 3d deleted Paragraph 6b amended
06 October 2021 (2021 AGM)	Name changed from HealthWatch to HealthSense UK