



ROYAL COLLEGE OF  
PHYSICIANS AND  
SURGEONS OF GLASGOW

## **Alcohol minimum pricing**

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The Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow supports plans to introduce a minimum price on alcohol. We welcome the Scottish Government's plans to introduce a minimum price of 50p per unit of alcohol and believe it would be a mistake for the UK government not to introduce similar measures.

The minimum pricing recommendation is based on an evidence-based alcohol strategy for the UK, supported by the Alcohol Health Alliance and the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow.

In the UK today, retailers have been allowed to heavily discount the price of alcohol. Shops and supermarkets are the dominant players in alcohol sales and alcohol is more available than it has ever been. This has contributed to heavy drinkers being able to maintain dangerous levels of consumption and encourages a culture of pre-loading on cheap alcohol at home before a night out. A minimum price per unit of alcohol will raise the price of the cheapest alcohol products on the market and will have a greatest impact on the heaviest drinkers. It has the potential to save lives.