

RCGP Revalidation Information for GPs

September 2010



Revalidation is likely to start in 2012 or early 2013. Over the following 5 years, all doctors – including GPs – will need to be revalidated.

The RCGP has the responsibility, on behalf of all GPs, to propose the standards and methods for the revalidation of GPs. We are not doing this alone. We are working in partnership with the other Medical Royal Colleges, the British Medical Association (BMA), the Departments of Health and the General Medical Council (GMC). Indeed, all our proposals are subject to the GMC's approval and sign-off.

Our current proposals have been informed and supported by a number of pilots. Revalidation must be feasible for GPs whatever their working background. For this reason we commissioned pilots for mainstream GPs, sessional and remote rural GPs, and we are to shortly commence pilots for doctors who work in secure environments and those who work in the Defence Medical Services. Learning from these pilots is incorporated into the RCGP Guide to Revalidation, an evolving document (www.rcgp.org.uk/revalidation).

Whilst revalidation will be an affirmation of good practice, we recognise that it must be underpinned by ongoing and

effective systems of support for GPs who may be experiencing difficulties in their working lives. We have been working very closely with the Department of Health (England) and other partners to ensure that robust, consistent and equitable systems of remediation are put in place prior to the introduction of revalidation. Revalidation is not intended to be a punitive process.

The RCGP welcomed the opportunity to respond to the GMC consultation on Revalidation and we look forward to receiving their response. Early indications suggest that there is a need to simplify and streamline Revalidation processes, to make them more equitable across the various disciplines and easier to understand by all. We are already working with our partners to explore ways in which this aim might be achieved.

Finally, all this would not be possible without the support of the GP profession. Your comments and suggestions have been exceptionally valuable to us and have helped us shape our guidance. Please do continue to make your views heard at revalidation@rcgp.org.uk.

Professor Mike Pringle
RCGP Revalidation Clinical Lead

The RCGP is committed to keeping all GPs informed about revalidation and we are continually updating our revalidation website with new information and developments. Visit www.rcgp.org.uk/revalidation for the latest revalidation information.

In particular the RCGP Guide to the Revalidation of General Practitioners (http://www.rcgp.org.uk/_revalidation/revalidation_guide.aspx), the RCGP Guide to the Credit-Based System for CPD (http://www.rcgp.org.uk/professional_development/continuing_professional_development/cpd_credits_scheme.aspx), and our Frequently Asked Questions should help you to understand what revalidation will entail.

- Revalidation will involve the collection of supporting information into a Revalidation ePortfolio.
- Your supporting information is basically that which you would provide for annual appraisal.
- Your supporting information will be submitted to your local Responsible Officer.

Supporting information in this factsheet apply to all GPs. However, we recognise that there are specific issues for sessional doctors (particularly peripatetic locums), emergency care and out-of-hours doctors, GPs in independent practice and those working in the Defence Medical Services and secure environments. There are also specific issues for those GPs who take breaks from work through illness, pregnancy, career breaks, sabbaticals or those who are working abroad. All these issues are addressed in Section 3 of the latest version of the RCGP Guide to Revalidation for General Practitioners.

What you should do now

You should ensure that you have your annual appraisals, use an electronic toolkit to record your supporting information, including your Personal Development Plans (PDPs). You should consider recording your Significant Event Audits or Clinical Audits. You should deal with any complaints properly, recording your reflections.

You should record all their education, including the hours spent, in preparation for the introduction of Learning Credits.

The RCGP has developed and will continue to develop tools for revalidation. These are some tools that members and non members can access:

- **RCGP Revalidation ePortfolio:** An electronic system designed specifically to help GPs collect supporting information for revalidation (available early December 2010). Visit the RCGP Revalidation ePortfolio microsite for regular updates and information: http://www.rcgp.org.uk/_revalidation/revalidation_eportfolio_home.aspx
- **Essential Knowledge Updates (EKU) and Essential Knowledge Challenge (EKC):** The EKU provide GPs with a six-monthly focused updates on knowledge which is central to their practice. The EKC, released six months following the EKU, is the online assessment that tests your understanding of the EKU. EKU and EKC are an excellent CPD resource and can be accessed at: <http://www.elearning.rcgp.org>.
- **MSF (colleague) / PSQ (patient) tools:** The RCGP has commissioned an external review of Multi-Source Feedback (MSF) and Patient Survey Questionnaire (PSQ) tools to assess their suitability for use in revalidation. Please see the results of this review at: http://www.rcgp.org.uk/_revalidation/revalidation_supporting_tools.aspx.
- **Significant Event Audits:** A guide to significant events auditing can be found at: <http://www.nrls.npsa.nhs.uk/resource/s/?entryid45=61500>
- **Other e-Learning resources**
The College's dedicated e-learning platform, the Online Learning Environment (OLE) (<http://www.elearning.rcgp.org.uk>), includes a variety of online courses aimed at practising GPs.
- **e-GP**
e-GP is an ambitious educational project run by the RCGP and e-Learning for Healthcare. It provides a comprehensive programme of e-learning modules to support GP training and professional development. You can access the e-GP website here: http://www.e-lfh.org.uk/projects/egp/more_info.html
- **Learning Credits**
Find out more about the RCGP Learning Credits scheme at: http://www.rcgp.org.uk/professional_development/continuing_professional_develo/cpd_credits_scheme.aspx
- **Clinical Audits**
The RCGP Clinical Innovation and Research Centre (CIRC) has developed valuable guidance on Clinical Audit. This can be accessed at: http://www.rcgp.org.uk/clinical_and_research/circ/audit.aspx

Revalidation Check list

For detailed advice on any of the following supporting information areas please refer to the 'RCGP Guide to Revalidation for General Practitioners'

- Supporting information area 1 – Statement of professional roles and other basics
- Supporting information area 2 – Statement of exceptional circumstances
- Supporting information area 3 – Evidence of active and effective participation in annual appraisals
- Supporting information area 4 – A Personal Development Plan from each annual appraisal
- Supporting information area 5 – A review of the PDP from each annual appraisal
- Supporting information area 6 – Learning credits in each year of the revalidation period and in the revalidation period overall
- Supporting information area 7 – Multi-source feedback from colleagues
- Supporting information area 8 – Feedback from patients
- Supporting information area 9 – Description of any cause for concern and/or formal complaint
- Supporting information area 10 – Significant event audits
- Supporting information area 11 – Clinical audits
- Supporting information area 12 – Statement on probity and health
- Supporting information area 13 - Additional evidence for areas of extended practice

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