



External CPD - some information

1 hour of approved activity = 1 External CPD credit.
Maximum 6 External CPD credits per day.

What activities qualify for External CPD credits?

External CPD credits can be claimed for international conferences, regional meetings / conferences, medically related advanced degrees, accredited online learning, courses / meetings which have been approved by any of the medical training bodies in Ireland, or which carry EACCME accreditation. You should receive a CPD Certificate of Approval stating the CPD credits approved for the meeting and confirming your attendance.

You may claim maximum 6 External CPD credits per day. External CPD events should be attended by doctors from more than one hospital and should incorporate at least one of the Medical Council's [Eight Domains of Professional Good Practice](#).

What about EACCME credits?

Any meeting which has EACCME accreditation is automatically approved for External CPD credits. You may claim the EACCME credits at a maximum of 6 External CPD credits per day. Ensure you receive a certificate of attendance.

Royal College of Psychiatrists meetings are also automatically approved for CPD. (maximum 6 credits per day)

American Psychiatric Association conferences are automatically approved for CPD. (maximum 6 credits per day)

Can I claim CPD credits for meetings approved by other medical training bodies?

Yes, there is recognition of CPD approval between the medical training bodies in Ireland (Royal College of Surgeons, College of Physicians, College of Anaesthetists, Irish College of General Practitioners). If you attend a meeting that has CPD approval granted by any of these bodies, it is automatically recognised by the College of Psychiatry of Ireland. Ensure you receive a CPD certificate of attendance.

Does online learning qualify for External CPD?

Yes, a small number of websites are approved by this College for CPD.

- [RCPsych CPD online](#)
- [Medscape](#)
- [Mental Health Commission](#)
- [British Association of Psychopharmacology \(BAP\)](#)
- [CPsychI & RCPI elearning module "Delirium: Recognition & Response"](#)
- [RCPI Online Courses](#) (*course should be relevant to psychiatry and your scope of practice*)

If you wish to claim online learning activity for CPD, you should ensure you complete any tests at the end of a module and the print off your certificate for the module. You may claim up to 10 External CPD credits per year for online learning, plus a maximum of 5 Internal CPD credits per year.

I am doing a Masters / Diploma / PhD in a psychiatry related subject. Can I claim CPD?

Yes. You should claim maximum 10 External CPD credits for each completed year of the course. You should ensure you have a letter or certificate of completion of each year in your files as evidence of your activity. The remaining time spent on course work should be claimed under either the Personal CPD category, or the Research / Examining / Postgraduate Supervision CPD category, as appropriate.

Can meetings with Pharma sponsorship be approved for External CPD?

- Meetings which are *organised and funded* by a Pharma company cannot be approved for External CPD credits.
- Meetings which are organised by clinicians, with unrestricted funding from a Pharma company, can be submitted to the College of Psychiatrists for approval for External CPD.

I completed a five-day training course on a psychiatry related topic. Can I claim 30 External CPD credits for the 5 days?

If the whole course was focused on one particular specialist topic, we recommend you claim a maximum of 10 External CPD credits and the remainder of time as either Personal CPD or Research / Examining / Postgraduate Supervision CPD credits, as appropriate. If a doctor attends a conference over a number of days, which focuses on more than one specialist area, the doctor may claim the maximum of 6 External Credits for each day of attendance. The course / conference should be approved for External CPD - either by this College or one of the other medical colleges - or should carry EACCME accreditation.

What meetings are approved for External CPD credits?

A list of all [Events & Courses](#) approved for External CPD credits by this College is available on the college website homepage www.irishpsychiatry.ie

I attended a meeting but it did not carry CPD approval or EACCME accreditation. Can I claim CPD credits?

If you attended an event which was not approved for external CPD and wish to claim credits, please send details to the Professional Competence office and we will approve the meeting and issue you with a CPD certificate. You will need to send us:

- your certificate of attendance
- the programme of the event with details of the event organiser, session topics, times and speakers.

- Update your online CPD Diary with all credits you are claiming.
- Keep CPD certificates for at least 5 years as evidence of CPD credits claimed.
- Ensure you have evidence to support any credits claimed.

If you need any assistance or guidance regarding CPD approval, or the requirements of the PCS, please contact Lorna, Mona, or Louise in the Professional Competence Department by telephone (01) 634 4378 / 634 4375 / 661 8450 or email pcs@irishpsychiatry.ie