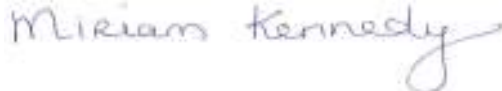


Dear Colleague,

As the end of another PCS Year approaches we would like to update you on what's happening in Professional Competence, and to pass on some information you might find useful. The Professional Competence Committee continues to meet regularly and we are focusing on education - assessing the educational needs of the membership, and planning targeted useful educational events.

With best wishes,



1. PCS Year-end 30/04/14

30th April 2014 sees the end of Year 3 PCS. Please check your online CPD diary in advance of this date and log all your CPD credits. Don't forget to update your Clinical Audit status on the diary. Every doctor enrolled in a PCS is required to complete a clinical audit related to their scope of practice, each year.

We will close the online CPD diary on Friday 9th May so that we can begin issuing Statements of Participation in a Professional Competence Scheme. Please log your credits as soon as possible as we are hoping to avoid end-of-year panic that can cause delays, stress and website crashes!

2. PCS Workshop & PCS Advice, College Spring Conference, Cork. Thursday 10th & Friday 11th April.

Thursday afternoon at the conference includes a workshop with Dr Gerry McCarney and Dr Miriam Kennedy to discuss the PCS Verification Process. The workshop will look at good practice in PCS, common pitfalls and the lessons learned from the verification processes completed so far. We hope this session will demystify the verification process and help you to keep good records and evidence of your professional competence activities.

Lorna will be at the Registration Desk on Thursday & Friday mornings. Please come to see her with any PCS queries, suggestions or just to pick up some information. Anyone who would like help to Download the CPD Diary onto their Smartphone / tablet / iPad please bring them along and Lorna will assist you.

3. Internal CPD credits for College Faculty & Committee meetings.

If you attend or dial into College faculty & committee meetings which have a clear patient care / patient safety aspect, you can accrue 1 Internal CPD credit per meeting. You can log up to 5 of these internal credits per PCS year. College administrators are currently providing members with confirmation of meetings attended and the credits that can be claimed.

4. CPD credits for undergraduate examining & teaching.

While undergraduate examining and teaching does not always fulfil the criteria for a consultant's professional competence activities, it is recognised that educational input can involve competencies and skills at a high level. We recommend that you keep a brief reflective note of relevant undergraduate teaching / examining session(s) and claim Research, Examining & PG Supervision CPD credits for same (1 credit per hour).

5. PCS Annual Fee – Year 4 (May 2014 – April 2015) invoices to be issued in May.

Annual PCS fee invoices will be issued in May for the coming PCS Year (May 2014 - April 2015).

6. PCS Annual Fee – Year 3 (May 2013 – April 2014).

The Year 3 PCS annual fee was invoiced last April 2013. We know that there are many demands on our members, but in order to remain enrolled in the professional competence scheme, the annual fee does need to be paid. If you haven't already paid the fee, or are unsure if you have, please contact Lorna or Mona. College members can pay the PCS fee online via the homepage of www.irishpsychiatry.ie.

Where payments are overdue, CPD Diaries have been locked. If you wish to pay an overdue PCS invoice to re-enrol and get access to your CPD Diary, please contact Lorna or Mona before 25th April with payment details.

It is worth noting that we can't accept retrospective payment for previous PCS years. This means that a doctor can't pay their Year 3 PCS fee in Year 4. Where a doctor didn't pay the PCS fee within the year in question, there will be a gap on their Statement of Participation for that year.

7. Peer Review Groups.

We have 450 psychiatrists registered in a total of 75 peer review groups throughout the country. We'd be interested to hear from these groups with regard to identified areas of need for professional competence. Please contact your local CPD representative (see list in section 10) to give us any feedback.

8. CPD Educational Events.

The college has a remit from the Medical Council, as part of operating a PCS, to provide opportunities to doctors enrolled in our PCS to obtain CPD credits. To fulfil this requirement, we aim to bring a number of topics of interest to our PCS enrolees throughout the year in the form of CPD approved meetings, courses and events.

Successful events we have recently held during the current PCS year include;

- Reducing the Stigma of Mental Disorders (Nov '13)
- Balint Group Workshop for Consultant Psychiatrists (Dec '13)
- Complaints, Litigation, Malpractice: How to Survive as a Psychiatrist (Feb '14)
- Evidence Based Perspectives on Diagnosis & Treatment of Migrants & Ethnic Minorities (March '14)

Forthcoming CPD events include:

23rd May 2014, Dublin: Health Economics – Economic Evaluation across the lifespan in Mental Health.

14th June 2014, Dublin: Current Approaches in Psychotherapy: Relationships, Borderline Personality Disorder and Depression.

Please see the **Meetings & Events list** on www.irishpsychiatry.ie for full details of these and all meetings with CPD credits. Let us know if you would like to see any particular topics being covered, or if you would like to organise a meeting in your area.

9. Getting External Credits for events you attend which haven't been approved.

If you attend a meeting which doesn't already have external CPD credits, you can email us your Certificate of Attendance and a completed Individual CPD Approval Application form (download from Prof Comp section on www.irishpsychiatry.ie). The details will be reviewed to approve the event for external CPD credits and we can then issue you with an individual CPD certificate.

10. Professional Competence Committee.

We are very grateful to our committee members and others who have assisted us to date, and look forward to working with any individuals or groups who wish to get involved in professional competence areas of interest.

PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS.

Chair:	Dr Miriam Kennedy
Academic:	Dr Brian Hallahan
Addictions:	Dr Gerry McCarney
Adult Psychiatry:	Dr Eamonn Kenny
CAP:	Dr AnnMarie Waldron
Dublin East:	Dr Raju Bangaru
Forensic:	Dr Sally Linehan
Liaison:	Dr Paula McKay
Midlands:	Dr Ciaran Corcoran
Nominee MHC:	Dr Maria Frampton
Old Age:	Dr Aoibhinn Lynch
PIPSIG:	Dr Joan Daly
Psychotherapy:	Dr Maeve Moran
Social & Rehab:	Dr Lee Motherway
South East:	Dr Annette Kavanagh
West:	Dr Margaret O'Grady

11. PCS Verification Process.

We are currently undertaking the second annual PCS Verification Process, as required under the Medical Council's arrangements and regulations. 3% of all doctors enrolled on our PCS have been randomly selected and asked to submit documentation to verify the credits and clinical audit status as shown on their Year 2 Statement of Participation in a Professional Competence Scheme, issued in June 2013.

As you go through the PCS year, it is important to make sure you have and retain evidence to support everything you log. It is clear that many of you are engaged in CPD activities far beyond the minimum requirements; the trick is to ensure you have solid evidence to support every credit claimed.

The Verification process is a supportive process. We will provide feedback and support where necessary to the individual doctors. The common issues and difficulties which come to light through the process will be discussed at the PCS Workshop at the Spring Meeting in April in Cork. Reporting to the Medical Council on the verification process is aggregate only, with no individual doctors' names or details.

Contact Us!



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