



Dear Colleague,

This newsletter sees us in our fifth year of the Professional Competence Scheme. Medical Council feedback on the operation of the PCS in psychiatry continues to be positive. We hope the process of gathering CPD credits and logging in the CPD diary has now become a familiar and routine part of our often very busy working lives.

Our Professional Competence Committee continues to reflect on the current CPD structure and how we can work to develop and enhance it in coming years. In early October we submitted a three year PCS strategy plan to the Medical Council. Setting out the plan helped us prioritise some key areas of our PCS for development. These are listed in Section 7 overleaf. **Lifelong learning** can be defined as “ongoing, voluntary, and self-motivated pursuit of knowledge for either personal or professional reasons”. In the context of professional competence in psychiatry, we are committed to promoting and supporting reflective lifelong learning.

As always, we welcome your feedback and suggestions for CPD events and professional competence in general. In particular, we'd be delighted to hear from any members who could work with us to organise topics and speakers for Hot Topics meetings outside of Dublin - just contact Lorna, Louise or Mona in the college.



Best wishes for the remainder of 2015 and Christmas!

Miriam Kennedy

1. Clinical (Practice) Audit Workshop @ Winter Conference with Dr Ian Callanan Thurs 5th November, 15:45 – 17.00hrs

“Clinical audit - Mandated, but not Minded”

We are delighted to welcome Dr Ian Callanan, Group Audit Facilitator for St Vincent's Healthcare Group, to shed light on Clinical (Practice) Audit - a sometimes gloomy area! Ian has many years' expertise in organising, managing and facilitating clinical audit. His suggestions, tips and advice will generate ideas and actions for this mandatory element of professional competence. Come along to what will be a relaxed and helpful workshop - we might even manage to inject some humour into it!

2. Hot Topics in Psychiatry

The Hot Topics format – *Two Speakers, Two CPD Credits, One Thursday per month* - has proven very popular. We are delighted to have had a meeting in Galway; another meeting is scheduled in Cork, and we are working to record and make presentations available online for CPD.

**Further meetings – all Thursdays
2 External CPD credits per evening**

12th November – CORK

Early Interventions in Psychosis

Dr Karen O'Connor, Dr Maeve Rooney, Dr Michele Hill
7pm – 9pm Vienna Woods Hotel, Glanmire

19th November – DUBLIN

How to read an ECG, Monitoring of Psychotropics and cardiac status

Dr Vincent Maher, AMNCH

CVD in Serious Mental Illness

Prof Jogin Thakore, RCSI & SVH Fairview
6.30 – 8.30pm Ashling Hotel, Dublin 8

14th January – DUBLIN

Drug Treatment in Adolescents

Dr Gerry McCarney, SASSY Project, HSE Addiction Service

Psychosocial Interventions for Addictions

Dr Conor Farren, St Patrick's University Hospital
6.30 – 8.30pm Ashling Hotel, Dublin 8

11th February – DUBLIN Hot Topics

10th March – DUBLIN Hot Topics

28th April – DUBLIN Hot Topics

Full details on www.irishpsychiatry.ie. Bookings: email louise@irishpsychiatry.ie or ring 01 661 8450.

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.

3. Circuit Court Appeals Meeting, jointly hosted with the Mental Health Commission

Over sixty of you came to the Hilton Hotel, Charlemont on Friday 23rd October to hear speakers from Arthur Cox and our own Dr Damian Mohan and Dr Roy Browne talk about Circuit Court Appeals and the role of the Responsible Consultant Psychiatrist. From the feedback we received, the morning was useful and beneficial with plenty of opportunity for discussion. Our thanks to the speakers and the Mental Health Commission. We hope to collaborate with the Mental Health Commission again in the future on similar events.

4. PCS and certified sick leave (greater than 3 months) / maternity leave

The Medical Council has written to all training bodies, indicating that it is aware that periods of **certified illness >3 months** and **certified maternity leave** can impact on a doctor's ability to meet the requirements of PCS in a particular PCS year. From May 2015 onwards, if either of these circumstances cause a psychiatrist difficulty in meeting the annual requirements of the scheme, the psychiatrist should inform the college's PCS office. We can then confidentially note the circumstance on your file and have it indicated on your Statement of Participation (by way of a symbol or annotation). This way, where there is a shortfall, there will be an indication of a period of certified leave on your Statement for the year concerned. The doctor should ensure (s)he has the relevant documentation or certification to provide to the Medical Council if audited.

5. Online CPD Diary news

Your online CPD diary should save your data and display pages faster following a recent **server upgrade**. Don't forget you can access your diary on computers and all mobile devices. The [Professional Competence](#) section of our website has instructions on how to save the [CPD Diary App](#) specially formatted for Apple and Android devices.

Reflective notes can be saved for all categories of CPD if you wish, and the **Clinical (Practice) Audit title** can also be saved on your diary.

We recommend you log your CPD credits to your online CPD diary regularly, to avoid last minute panics and problems!

We encourage you to plan your CPD / educational activities to ensure you accrue at least the minimum number of credits plus Clinical Audit each year.

Contact us in the PCS office if you need advice, assistance with logging, or if you are having particular difficulties with accruing CPD credits or Clinical (Practice) Audit.

6. Automatic Recognition of some events for External CPD.

(1) External CPD credits approved by the medical training bodies in Ireland (**Royal College of Surgeons, Royal College of Physicians, College of Anaesthetists, Irish College of General Practitioners**) are automatically recognised by the College of Psychiatrists of Ireland. Ensure you receive a Certificate of Attendance stating the External CPD credits awarded. You do not need to apply to the CPsychI for CPD approval or a CPD certificate. External CPD credits can be claimed *subject to our Guidelines (below)*.

(2) **EACCME accredited meetings** – if you receive a certificate of attendance which enumerates EACCME credits, you do not need to apply to the CPsychI for CPD approval or a CPD certificate. EACCME credits can be claimed as External CPD credits *subject to our Guidelines (below)*.

(3) Some **established psychiatric conferences / international meetings** are recognised by the CPsychI for external CPD, *subject to our guidelines (below)*. You do not need to apply to the CPsychI for approval or a CPD certificate for these meetings.

- [American Psychiatric Association \(APA\)](#) annual conferences
- [European College of Neuropsychopharmacology \(ECNP\)](#) annual conferences
- [European Psychiatric Association \(EPA\)](#) annual conferences
- [European Society for Child & Adolescent Psychiatry \(ESCAP\)](#) conferences
- [International Psychogeriatric Association \(IPA\)](#) conferences
- [Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists \(RANZCP\)](#) meetings and conferences
- [Royal College of Psychiatrists \(RCPsych\)](#) meetings, courses and conferences
- [World Psychiatric Association \(WPA\)](#) annual conferences

GUIDELINES FOR AUTOMATIC RECOGNITION OF CPD:

(A) **Maximum of 6 External CPD credits** may be claimed for each full day's attendance at meetings / conferences / courses run by these organisations, regardless of the number of credits awarded by the organiser. 1 External credit per hour of learning activity. Further hours can be logged as Personal CPD credits. For meetings/courses based mainly on one clinical topic, External CPD credits are capped at

maximum 10. Further time spent on the learning activity can be claimed as Personal CPD credits.

(B) **Certificates of attendance** should be retained as evidence of participation.

(C) External CPD credits **cannot** be claimed for any sessions or satellite symposia with pharma sponsorship. Attendances at any such sessions can be claimed as personal CPD credits.

(D) External CPD activities should be **related to the doctor's scope of practice**.

(E) It is recommended that doctors make a **reflective note** indicating the learning achieved, when logging CPD credits. Reflective notes can be made on the online CPD Diary (click the icon beside where the number of credits is entered) or as a physical note to be kept with CPD records.

RECOGNITION OF OTHER EVENTS FOR EXTERNAL CPD

If you attended an educational event which was not approved for CPD and is not included in (1), (2), or (3) above, you can apply for external CPD credits by completing the [Individual CPD Approval Application Form](#). Return it to us with the required information. The application will be reviewed and if approved, you will be issued with a CPD certificate.

7. PCS Strategy Plan – Priority Areas.

Maintain our current standard of engagement with our members via the PCS.

Continue and enhance the provision of one-on-one support, telephone & email support, newsletters, workshops, eliciting feedback.

Continue to increase psychiatrists' compliance with PCS requirements

Utilise feedback from our annual verification processes to identify areas of the PCS our members find difficult or challenging. Engagement as in Strategy 1 will continue to increase awareness amongst PCS outliers.

Continue to Provide Diverse Ways of Supporting Lifelong Learning

Continue to develop our bi-annual conferences, monthly didactic Hot Topics series, approve of wide range of educational activities for External CPD. Promote Personal Development Plans and reflective practitioner approaches. IT developments, development and recognition of eLearning, peer review activities, online educational activities all to be supported.

Further develop the use of IT, in particular the online CPD diary, ePortfolio, Personal Development Plan and CPD approved educational e-modules to reach members across the regions

Within budgetary constraints, develop and provide accessible, inexpensive and functionally adequate platforms for education, and tools to assist our members in a meaningful way to maintain professional competence and lifelong learning.

Promote audit, reflective practice, networking and facilitating peer review groups as an effective method of self-improvement and lifelong learning.

Promote multiple ways of formative development including peer support, medical educational research.

Promote ongoing medical educational research in the area of effective professional competence schemes.

Continue to support individual members conducting research.