



Dear Colleague,

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We are now in our sixth year of the Professional Competence Scheme, and I think we've all come a long way since its formal introduction in May 2011.

My term as Director of Professional Competence is now drawing to a close. During that time, I hope we have introduced some useful initiatives in our PCS and made the process of complying with legislative regulations somewhat easier and more user-friendly. We continue to develop our systems and educational offerings to reflect the demand and lifelong learning needs of our members.



Dr Miriam Kennedy,  
PCS Director

I have thoroughly enjoyed working with the members of the Professional Competence Committee, our colleagues on College committees, those of you who have taken on projects and pieces of work for the Professional Competence department, and the College team. Development of our Professional Competence systems and educational offerings is a collaborative process and the engagement and interest from College members has been invaluable. We will keep you informed as to the appointment of the new Director of Professional Competence, who will take up the position in January 2017.

We want to extend our thanks to all those who have made presentations at our very popular **Hot Topics** meetings. The quality of presentations, content and discussion continues to be excellent and we are very grateful for speakers' time and expertise.

Finally, a call for your help to bring **Hot Topics to the regions!** If you are based outside Dublin and would like to see a Hot Topics meeting organised in your region, please do talk to me, Louise or Lorna in the PCS office about sourcing a venue and speakers.

With warm wishes,

*Miriam Kennedy*

### 1. Professional Competence North & South: What works, what doesn't?

Workshop with Dr Joan McGuinness & Mrs Norma Thompson and Dr Miriam Kennedy  
@ Winter Conference, Slieve Russell Hotel.

❖ THURSDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 15:45 – 17:00 hrs

With a number of psychiatrists working both sides of the border, it is timely to examine the professional competence frameworks and structures in both jurisdictions. We are delighted to welcome Dr Joan McGuinness, Lead Appraiser and Revalidation Lead and Mrs Norma Thompson, Head of Medical & Nursing Revalidation Support Team in the Southern Health and Social Care Trust, Northern Ireland. Dr Miriam Kennedy will chair the workshop which will give us an opportunity to compare and contrast CPD / CME systems both sides of the border. There will be lots of opportunity for questions and discussion, and we look forward to seeing you there.

### 2. Hot Topics in Psychiatry

*Two Speakers, Two CPD Credits, One Thursday per month*

The ever-popular Hot Topics meetings are a great way to hear topical presentations from peers and experts; engage in lively discussion on the subject; gather CPD credits; and meet colleagues. The next meeting is set for **Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> November** in the Ashling Hotel, with **Dr Eamonn Kenny** presenting on **Current Neuroleptic Medications** and **Prof Aiden Corvin** speaking on **Expressed Emotion and Schizophrenia**.

For details and to book online, go to Events on [www.irishpsychiatry.ie](http://www.irishpsychiatry.ie); email [louise@irishpsychiatry.ie](mailto:louise@irishpsychiatry.ie) or ring 01 634 4375.

See the [Meetings & Events list](#) on [www.irishpsychiatry.ie](http://www.irishpsychiatry.ie) for full details of Hot Topics and all other meetings with CPD credits.

### 3. Update your online CPD Diary!



A gentle reminder to ensure you update your online CPD diary – it can make life easier to log credits throughout the year! Please make sure you have good evidence to support the external, internal and research / examining / teaching credits you log.

- **Don't forget to confirm Clinical (Practice) Audit on your diary!**
- **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.
- 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.

### 4. CPD for online learning.

Some websites (listed below) are approved by this College for online CPD. Credits are usually allocated by the host organisation per completed module. Where the organisation doesn't indicate the credits for the module, the general rule is 1 CPD credit per hour of learning activity.

- [British Association for Psychopharmacology \(BAP\) online CPD](#)
- [CPsychI & RCPI elearning module "Delirium: Recognition & Response"](#)
- [Medilearning – Schizophrenia Module](#)
- [Medscape](#)
- [Mental Health Commission](#)
- [RCPsych CPD online](#)
- [RCPI - individual online courses \(courses relevant to your scope of practice and appropriate level for consultant CPD\)](#)

If you wish to claim online learning from one of the above websites for CPD, you should ensure you complete any tests at the end of a module and then 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.**

## 5. Automatic Recognition of some events for External CPD.

**(A)** 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\**.

**(B)** **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\**.

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

- [Association for Child and Adolescent Mental Health \(ACAMH\)](#) meetings and conferences
- [American Psychiatric Association \(APA\)](#) annual conferences
- [American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry \(AACAP\)](#) annual meetings
- [British Association of Psychopharmacology \(BAP\)](#) annual meetings
- [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

\* See [www.irishpsychiatry.ie/PCS/CPDApprovalOfEvents.aspx](http://www.irishpsychiatry.ie/PCS/CPDApprovalOfEvents.aspx) for  
- **GUIDELINES for automatic recognition of CPD**  
- **RECOGNITION OF OTHER EVENTS for External CPD**

## 6. Annotation<sup>†</sup> on PCS Statement to indicate certified sick leave / maternity leave

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. If 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). 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.

## 7. Medical Council guidance: where PCS annual minimum requirements are not met

The Medical Council has stated that:

*"Doctors should always be advised and supported to achieve the minimum targets for accrual of maintenance of competence activities each year. However, where annual minimum targets have not been achieved, in reviewing a doctor's Statement of Participation, the Medical Council will also take account of the average accrual of credits across a 5 year period before any decision is made regarding further action. It also takes into account any particular circumstances which may be relevant."*

This guidance is welcome and should be of reassurance to doctors who normally meet or exceed the minimum requirements of the PCS, but have difficulties in a particular year.

As always, the Professional Competence Handbook contains full information on all aspects of PCS.  
[www.irishpsychiatry.ie/PCS/PCSHandbook.aspx](http://www.irishpsychiatry.ie/PCS/PCSHandbook.aspx)