



Dear Colleague,

We thought it was time for an update on what's happening in Professional Competence, and to pass on some information you might find useful at this half-way point in the third year of the PCS. The Professional Competence Committee continues to meet regularly and we are focusing on education - assessing the educational needs of the membership, and providing targeted useful educational events. Thanks to those of you who have met with me or given feedback with regard to ideas for professional competence scheme development. We always welcome your input; it helps us to focus on the areas of professional competence which are really relevant to you.

With best wishes, *Miriam Kennedy*

1. Log your credits!

Your online diaries are open for logging, and we encourage doctors to log their CPD credits regularly throughout the year. That way we can hopefully avoid the PCS end-of-year panic that can cause delays, stress and website crashes!

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.

2. PCS Workshop & Helpdesk, College Winter Conference, Malahide, Thursday 7th & Friday 8th November.

Thursday afternoon at the conference includes a workshop with Miriam Kennedy discussing PCS in Ireland - where we are and how we would like to see it develop. Miriam's counterpart in Northern Ireland, Dr Michael Mannion, has just completed overseeing the first year of a revalidation process and will give an overview of PCS there and in the UK. The workshop will be an opportunity for discussion and reflection on professional competence and we hope to see many of you there.

Lorna and Mona will be at the PCS Helpdesk on Thursday & Friday. Please come to see us with any queries, suggestions or just to pick up some information. Just to remind you that the app for your online CPD Diary is now available to download from www.irishpsychiatry.ie. We'll even help you download the CPD Diary app onto your smartphone / tablet / iPad if you bring it with you! We look forward to seeing 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 year. Towards the end of the PCS year (April 2014) the administrators of the faculties & committees can provide members with confirmation of meetings attended and the credits that can be claimed.

4. CPD credits for undergraduate examining & teaching

Many of us engage in undergraduate examining & teaching. Until now, these activities did not garner CPD credits. Feedback from the Medical Council has now confirmed that 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 3 (May 2013 - April 2014).

The Year 3 PCS annual fee was invoiced in 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 as quickly as possible. College members can pay the PCS fee online via the homepage of www.irishpsychiatry.ie. As we have already sent a number of reminders, we will soon be setting a date after which non-payment will result in withdrawal of access to CPD diaries.

It is worth noting that we can't accept retrospective payment for previous years PCS. This means that a doctor can't pay their Year 2 PCS fee in Year 3. 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.

6. 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 overleaf in section 9) to give us any feedback.

7. CPD Educational Events.

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

Successful events we have held this year include

- Physical Health in Serious Mental Illness, Dublin (May '13)
- Mental Health Tribunal Training Skills, Dublin (June '13)
- PIPSIG (Private & Independent Practice Special Interest Group) Educational Meeting, Dublin (September '13)
- Mindfulness Workshop, Cork, (October '13)

Forthcoming CPD events include:

22nd November 2013, Dublin: Reducing the Stigma of Mental Disorders

11th December 2013, Athlone: Balint Workshop

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.

8. 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 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.

9. Professional Competence Committee - call for representatives

A network of faculty and area representatives make up the college's Professional Competence Committee. But we are conscious that some areas of the country don't have representation. There may also be other groups who would like to be represented. We have started to co-opt members for specific tasks related to professional competence. 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.

We are now updating the PCS committee membership. **If you would like to get involved, please email us at pcs@irishpsychiatry.ie by 29th November.**

PCS COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

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

10. PCS Verification Process

We will soon be starting the second annual PCS Verification Process, as required under the Medical Council's arrangements and regulations. 3% of all doctors enrolled on our PCS will be 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.

We will provide feedback and support where necessary to the individual doctors involved in the verification process. We will write up the common issues and difficulties which come to light throughout the process and make this information available to all doctors enrolled on our PCS. 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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