



**BRIEF NOTES FROM THE PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Held on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2015**  
**- for general circulation to College Faculties etc. –**

• **PCS Educational CPD Events**

- **HOT TOPICS IN PSYCHIATRY - a series of monthly evening CPD meetings - 2 CPD credits**  
The Hot Topics series is back! We are running a meeting in NUI Galway on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> October with two speakers on Mental Health Law Updates. Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> November sees us back in the Ashling Hotel with speakers on how to read ECGs and management of physical healthcare. The full list of dates and topics are on the Meeting & Events list on [www.irishpsychiatry.ie](http://www.irishpsychiatry.ie) where members can also book online.
- **Making HOT TOPICS available to the regions**  
We know many of you living outside the Dublin / Leinster region cannot make it to Hot Topics meetings held in Dublin. Logistics and smaller attendances make it difficult to run these brief evening meetings outside Dublin. However we are bringing Hot Topics to Galway on 8<sup>th</sup> October, and we are recording presentations at the meetings on a pilot basis. These will be edited and packaged for delayed online access. We'll soon be letting you know the details of how you can access the presentations, and how you can accrue CPD for viewing and discussing them with your peers.
- **PRIVATE & INDEPENDENT PRACTICE SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP (PIPSIG) EDUCATIONAL MEETING + DINNER**  
Friday evening 18<sup>th</sup> & Saturday morning 19<sup>th</sup> September 2015 in the Royal Marine Hotel Dun Laoghaire  
2 CPD credits Friday evening, 3 CPD credits Saturday morning.
- **CLINICAL (PRACTICE) AUDIT WORKSHOP - Dr Ian Callanan, St Vincent's University Hospital**  
Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> November at the College Winter Conference, Limerick (5/6 November 2015)
- **CIRCUIT COURT APPEALS - joint information session with Mental Health Commission**  
09.30 - 13:00 Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2015. Hilton Hotel, Charlemont, Ranelagh, Dublin 6  
The Mental Health Commission has approached the college to run an information session on Circuit Court Appeals and the role of the Responsible Consultant Psychiatrist. This session will have a speaker from the MHC's legal advisors, and two of our members with experience of Circuit Court Appeals will facilitate discussion and practical guidance on their experiences. Full details will be advertised very shortly.

• **Medical Council guidance: PCS requirements & Maternity Leave / certified Sick Leave >3 mths**

The Medical Council issued training bodies with updated guidance indicating that they recognise that periods of certified leave such as **maternity leave** or **sick leave longer than 3 months** can result in a doctor not being able to maintain their professional competence over that period. They also indicate that if they are reviewing a doctor's PCS details and the doctor has had a period of certified maternity or sick leave greater than 3 months, they will take into account the average accrual of credits over a 5 year period where minimum targets haven't been achieved in one year.

Doctors who wish these circumstances to be noted and taken into account should:

- (1) email or write to the college's PCS Department, marking correspondence Private & Confidential
- (2) include the nature of the extenuating circumstance (i.e. sick leave, maternity leave)
- (3) include the dates of the period of certified leave.

We will note the information confidentially on our Professional Competence files and an annotation will be made on the relevant year on the doctor's Statement of Participation in a Professional Competence Scheme. This updated guidance is being finalised with the Medical Council and will apply to the 2015/16 PCS year.



## • PCS - Medical Council

Our Annual Reports on the operation of the CPsychI Professional Competence Scheme were accepted by the Medical Council's Registration & Continuing Practice Committee. We are due to submit a three year strategy plan to the Medical Council on 30<sup>th</sup> September. The report is currently with the college's Management Committee and Council for comment and approval.

## • Current PCS Year 2015/16

**2015/16 Professional Competence Fees are due!** Thanks to those who have paid their 2015/16 PCS fees.

If you have not already done so, please pay this year's annual PCS fee. The fee of €252 remains unchanged in this, the 5<sup>th</sup> year of the PCS.

## • CPD online Diary - server upgrade

The server for the CPD online diary has been upgraded, which is resulting in faster speeds logging and saving data on your diary.

## • Medical Council - Pilot Patient Feedback Form

The College has been working with the Medical Council's Multi-Source Feedback Working Group in developing and piloting a patient feedback form. Participation can fulfil the Clinical (Practice) Audit requirement for one year, or will garner internal CPD credits. We are still in correspondence with the Medical Council on the processes and details of the pilot; we will circulate full information to the membership as soon as it is finalised.

## • Automatic Recognition of some events for External CPD:

Good news! You do not need to apply to the CPsychI for External CPD approval for certain events.

**!** Please see the [CPD Approval of Events](http://irishpsychiatry.ie/PCS/CPDApprovalOfEvents.aspx) page ( <http://irishpsychiatry.ie/PCS/CPDApprovalOfEvents.aspx>) on the PCS Section of [www.irishpsychiatry.ie](http://www.irishpsychiatry.ie) for full details of the conferences, meetings & events which are **■** automatically approved for External CPD.

Please note the **GUIDELINES FOR AUTOMATIC RECOGNITION OF CPD:**

- a. A maximum of **6 External CPD credits** may be claimed for each full day's attendance at meetings / conferences / courses run by the named 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.
- 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. When logging CPD credits, it is recommended that doctors make a **brief reflective note** indicating the learning achieved. 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.