



BRIEF NOTES FROM THE PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE WORKING MEETING
Held on 20th October 2015
- for general circulation to College Faculties etc. –

• **PCS Educational CPD Events**

- **CIRCUIT COURT APPEALS - joint information session with Mental Health Commission - 3.5 CPD credits**
09.30 - 13:00 Friday 23rd October 2015. Hilton Hotel, Charlemont, Ranelagh, Dublin 6
Two speakers from Arthur Cox, the Mental Health Commission's legal advisors, will cover the relevant legislation, the role of the Responsible Consultant Psychiatrist, preparation of reports for the court and practical issues relating to the running of an appeal. Drs Damian Mohan and Roy Browne will then work with the group to discuss common pitfalls for the RCP in the appeals process, anonymised case summaries and facilitate discussion and practical guidance on their experiences. [Full programme and booking.](#)
- **HOT TOPICS IN PSYCHIATRY - a series of monthly evening CPD meetings - 2 CPD credits**
Thursday 19th November sees us back in the Ashling Hotel with Dr Vincent Maher Cardiologist and Prof Jogin Thakore discussing how to read ECGs, monitoring of psychotropics and cardiac status, and management of physical healthcare. The full list of [dates and topics](#) can be viewed on the Meeting & Events list on 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 had a very successful meeting in Galway on 8th October, and there will be a Hot Topics meeting on *Early Interventions in Psychosis* in the Clayton Silver Springs Hotel in Cork on Thursday evening 12th November with speakers kindly organised by Dr Aoife Ní Chorcórain. Details to follow soon.

We are recording presentations at some 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.

Thanks to all our Hot Topics speakers - the quality of presentation and content has been fantastic and we are very grateful to you for your time.

- **CLINICAL (PRACTICE) AUDIT - MANDATED, BUT NOT MINDED**
- Dr Ian Callanan, St Vincent's University Hospital
14:45-17:00 hrs Thursday 5th November at the [College Winter Conference](#), Limerick (5/6 November 2015)

• **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 from the current PCS year onwards.



• PCS - Medical Council

A three year PCS strategy plan was approved by Council and submitted to the Medical Council earlier this month.

• 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 5th year of the PCS.

• CPD for Examiner / ARPs work

- Participation in *training & inductions* for ARPs and examining shall accrue **External CPD credits**.
- *Conducting* ARPs and examining work shall accrue **Research, Examining, Teaching & PG Supervision CPD credits**.

• CPD for Irish Journal of Psychological Medicine Editorial Board work

Journal Editorial Board meetings can accrue **Internal CPD credits** on the same basis as College Committee and Faculty meetings. Information on this will be issued at the end of the PCS year (April) to members of the editorial board, college committees and faculties.

• 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 the 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 the guidelines below*.
3. The following are some established psychiatric conferences / international meetings which are recognised by the CPsychI for external CPD, *subject to the 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. 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.
- 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, and you wish to apply for external CPD credits, please complete the [Individual CPD Approval Application Form](#) and return it to us with the required information. The application will be reviewed and if approved, you will be issued with a CPD certificate.