



Dear Colleague,

Time for another update on Professional Competence matters! This year's Spring Conference in the Sheraton Hotel, Athlone includes a debate on the motion "Our Daily Lives are Incompatible with Maintaining Professional Competence. Not enough hours in the Day? Or are there?" Come along at 2pm on Thursday 12th April to hear Dr Matthew Sadlier and Dr Rachael Cullivan tease out the issues and arguments. Feel free to contribute and make your own opinions known!

Throughout 2018, Professional Competence Schemes across all training bodies are undergoing review and consultation with the Medical Council, to shape developments up to 2020. We give you more detail on this in Section 1 below, and we will keep you informed as things progress.

Don't forget to complete logging data in your CPD diary by 30th April if at all possible (or by 4th May at the latest). Please ensure you have evidence for everything you log - this will be needed if you are randomly selected for verification process. The PCS team is always happy to help with your queries - contact Mona, Louise, or Lorna in the office for assistance, or chat to any of us at the conference.

With best wishes,



Dr Lorcan Martin

1. MEDICAL COUNCIL – Review of Professional Competence Schemes (PCSs).

For some time, the Medical Council has been reviewing PCSs and exploring ways to further develop them, making them more relevant to both the doctor's development and patient safety. For the first number of years, the focus was on establishing the PCS and ensuring relevant doctors were informed and enrolled. The speciality of Psychiatry has been to the forefront of this process.

Attention is now turning to the issue of maintaining professional competence through compliance with CPD. The Medical Council now requires the Training Bodies to focus further on the issues of compliance, quality of CPD activities and barriers to reaching the annual requirements. This will be a dynamic and ongoing process. Be assured that we will continue to support those who are enrolled in PCS, and facilitate them in maintaining their professional competence as the scheme expands and develops.

2. PEER GROUPS and sharing CPD learning.

A number of active and successful psychiatry peer review groups are running throughout the country. The Medical Council has acknowledged that this form of CPD has a number of advantages (e.g. collegiate support, sharing of knowledge and experience, sharing of new learning etc.) and is keen to see an expansion of same throughout all specialties. We in the CPsychI encourage **further development of existing groups, establishment of new groups and facilitation of colleagues who may have difficulty finding a peer group.** We can offer advice on setting up Peer Review groups via the [professional competence section](#) of our website, and we in the [PCS office](#) are always available to help. Attending a Peer Review Group accrues 1 Internal CPD credit per hour.

Many doctors attend a variety of high quality CPD activities both here and abroad. We strongly encourage sharing of this learning at activities such as Peer Review Groups and other educational meetings. This reflects one of the themes in the Medical Council's ongoing development of PCS.

3. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANS (PDPs).

Page 15 of the Medical Council's "[Professional Competence: Guidelines for Doctors](#)" booklet states that "**Each doctor has to develop a plan for maintenance of professional competence**".

A number of training bodies already provide templates for PDPs. We are now obliged to do the same. We are working on a template for a PDP which when finalised, will be available to all PCS enrollees. This document will be for you and, while it will not form part of your PCS requirements, CPD credits will be available for its completion and discussion at Peer Review Group. We envisage that this will be a simple template to complete, to help you assess your educational needs and goals, and plan accordingly.

4. SOURCES OF ONLINE CPD

As you are aware, you can now claim up to **10 External and 10 Internal CPD** credits per year for online learning carried out on CPsychI CPD-approved websites. This increase means up to 20 hours of approved online CPD can be logged each year.

We already have an established list of pre-approved online CPD activities (see overleaf). However, we are continuously seeking to expand these resources. **If you are aware of high quality online CPD which isn't already approved, please let us know** by emailing pcs@irishpsychiatry.ie. Our Professional Competence Committee will review as much as we can, and update approved lists accordingly.

Current Sources of approved online CPD:

- [CPsychI Hot Topics eModules](#) (1 CPD credit each)
- [CPsychI & RCPI: "Delirium: Recognition & Response" eModule](#)
- [CPsychI: OAP Interactive Case Based Tutorial eModule](#)
(CPsychI eModules require Moodle login)
- [British Association for Psychopharmacology \(BAP\) online CPD](#)
- [Medilearning – Schizophrenia Module](#)
- [Medilearning – Cognitive Dysfunction in Depression 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*)

- We welcome your suggestions to add to this list -

If you wish to claim online learning from one of the above websites for CPD, you should ensure you complete any evaluation at the end of a module and then print off your certificate / evidence of completion.

5. REGIONAL HOT TOPICS NEEDED!

The popular Hot Topics series of meetings goes from strength to strength. Regularly attended by large audiences, these meetings reflect a wide variety of different aspects of psychiatric practice presented by expert peers. To date, all but two of these meetings have taken place in Dublin, and we are keen to bring Hot Topics to other parts of the country. The PCS department is in the position to support a local coordinator with the organisation and administration of a meeting. **Could you be that coordinator in your own area?** Please let us know! Contact louise@irishpsychiatry.ie or any of the PCS team - we would be delighted to work with you.

6. C.P.D. D.I.Y. !

Did you know you can organise your own external CPD events? Many people have already done this successfully, and these events have been granted external CPD approval. Remember, you can access funding from pharma and other companies, provided it is in the form of an **unrestricted educational grant**. If you would like any further advice about this, please contact me or any member of the PCS team.

7. AUDIT – LET’S JOIN FORCES!

As you are aware, we all need to complete at least one Clinical (Practice) Audit per year as part of our CPD requirements. However, many people conduct more than one audit per year, and audit is a means of service improvement and development, not just a CPD requirement. Frequently, doctors in different services conduct audit with similar themes. With this in mind, you may find it useful to link with others either for the purposes of comparison or to create larger studies. We'd like to **hear your suggestions** as to how we could facilitate this cross-pollination of ideas.

8. [HOT TOPICS IN PSYCHIATRY meetings 2017/18.](#)

Monthly evening CPD meetings – 2 External CPD credits

The very popular Hot Topics in Psychiatry 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 final meeting in this series is set for **Thursday 26th April** in the Ashling Hotel. We will welcome **Dr John Lambert** Consultant in Infectious Diseases, Mater Public and Private Hospital to present on **Neuropsychiatric Aspects of Lyme Disease** and **Dr Justin Brophy**, Consultant Psychiatrist, Newcastle Hospital, Wicklow will give us **Ticks and Tails down Wicklow way: A Case Study**. Monthly meetings will recommence in September 2018.

Online Booking for [Hot Topics meetings](#) is available in the Events & Meetings list on www.irishpsychiatry.ie.

9. Update your [online CPD Diary!](#) PCS Year End – 30 April 2018



With two weeks to the end of this PCS Year 2017/18, we would like to remind you to confirm **Clinical (Practice) Audit** and log your CPD credits in your [online CPD Diary](#). The following links to information on our college website may be useful when collecting and logging your credits:

- [Clinical \(Practice\) Audit Booklet](#).
- [PCS Handbook Page 11](#), for recording CPD credits.
- [Events Calendar](#) for upcoming CPD approved events.
- [Online approved learning opportunities](#).
- [Automatic recognition](#) of some events for External CPD.
- [Internal CPD](#) for College Faculty/Committee Meetings.

To log into your [Online CPD Diary](#), you need your **College Number** and **PCS Password**. These were last emailed to you on 9th April 2018 by Mona McCormac, or on the date you were fully registered in PCS.

Problems logging into your Diary, or logging your credits?
Contact the PCS office: pcs@irishpsychiatry.ie

10. DO YOU HAVE DIFFICULTY ACCESSING CPD?

Most doctors do not have difficulty accessing the CPD activities they require. However, a significant minority may experience problems with one or more of the CPD categories. There may be a variety of reasons for this, but we would draw attention to the fact that **it is a Medical Council requirement to engage fully in a professional competence scheme**. Some people are not aware of the full range of CPD options open to them, both locally and elsewhere. If you are experiencing any difficulty with maintaining professional competence, we would be very happy to help and advise you. Similarly, **if you identify or supervise a colleague who may be having difficulty accruing CPD credits, please ask them to contact our PCS team**.