



Dear Colleague,

Dr Gerry Lynch (RCPsych NI), Dr John Simpson (NI) and I hope to welcome you to our joint Professional Competence workshop **“Brake at the Border?”** (3.45pm Thursday afternoon, Winter Conference, Belfast). We’ll be discussing the forms of **CPD and professional competence schemes** in place north and south of the border, and further afield. Participants will consider the pros and cons of their existing CME arrangements, and ponder on some fundamental questions about professional competence throughout the session. More details in the newsletter below.

In the PCS department, we continue to listen to your feedback and work to make CPD as **flexible, relevant and accessible** as we can - within the fixed structure prescribed by the Medical Practitioners Act. The suite of **Hot Topics online CPD eModules** continues to expand. Over 33 eModules are now available online to our members, with more in the pipeline. It’s worth remembering that up to **10 External and 10 Internal CPD credits** can be logged each year from approved online CPD.



Dr Lorcan Martin,
Professional
Competence Director

We’ve listened to your feedback! As a result, Hot Topics meetings have expanded to Cork and Galway. Dr Elizabeth Walsh of our Professional Competence Committee has brought Hot Topics meetings to the West, while Dr Louise Connolly and Dr Eric Kelleher have worked with us to establish Hot Topics in the South - with great success! We’re very grateful to all Hot Topics speakers - the meetings have gone from strength to strength due to the quality of information and the variety of topics addressed. Please do talk to any of us in the Professional Competence Department if you’d be interested in bringing meetings to your area.

As always, we thank our Professional Competence Committee members for their continued time, expertise and interest. I’m also delighted to welcome Laura Breen, PCS Administrator, who joins Lorna and Louise in the PCS office.

Finally - it’s never too early to begin logging CPD credits into your online Diary!!! Just ensure you have *good evidence* to support every credit you log - this will be needed if you are randomly selected for the verification process. The PCS team is always happy to help with your queries about what qualifies for what category of CPD and any other professional competence matters. Contact Laura, Louise, or Lorna in the office for assistance, or chat to Lorna or myself at the conference.

With best wishes, Dr Lorcan Martin

1. CPD CERTIFICATES for Winter Conference have moved online!



In the week after the Winter Conference, every attendee will be emailed a link to a short online form, to declare the session(s) they attended at the Conference. A certificate will then be emailed to them. Only those attendees who submit the online form, will receive a CPD certificate. So please watch for that email, a week or so after the conference.

2. PCS Workshop **“Brake at the Border?”** @ Winter Conference

Thursday 14th November 15:45 - 17:15 The Bridge (Level 6)

This joint workshop will look at CME across Europe, Northern Ireland and Ireland. **Dr Lorcan Martin**, **Dr Gerry Lynch** (Chair & Vice President, NI College) and **Dr John Simpson** (Clinical Leadership Solutions & past Medical Director, Southern Health Trust) will present on the schemes in place north and south of the border. Participants will be asked to consider the pros and cons of our CPD structures and tools. Is your CPD / PCS effective, supportive and does it ultimately do what it sets out to do?

Bring your PCS thoughts, arguments and opinions to this workshop – we want to hear them!

3. Medical Council Monitoring and Managing Compliance Policies

In recent years, the Medical Council focused on ensuring all doctors who should be enrolled in a professional competence scheme, are enrolled. Attention is now moving to focus on *levels of PCS compliance amongst enrolled doctors*.

The Medical Council wrote to all Training Bodies, outlining its plan for managing PCS non-compliance from May 2020 on. All Training Bodies are asked to remind their PCS enrolees that:

- All PCS enrolees must undertake and record their **50 CPD credits** and **one Clinical (Practice) Audit** with their Scheme by 30 April 2020.
- The targets specified in the Framework for Maintenance of Professional Competence activity are **annual activity requirements**. CPD credits cannot be transferred from year to year.
- The minimum target in the various CPD categories must be met (**20 internal credits, 20 external credits, 5 personal learning credits**).
- The **personal learning category is mandatory**: Scheme enrolees must meet a minimum of 5 CPD credits per annum in this category.
- **Clinical (Practice) Audit is a stand-alone annual requirement** and cannot be counted as part of the 50

CPD credits. It is a quality improvement process whether clinical or non-clinical.

- Scheme enrollees who are struggling to meet the requirements or have extenuating circumstances should **contact their Schemes** and let them know of their situation so that appropriate advice and support can be provided.

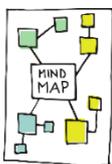
The Medical Council says doctors who are not compliant at the end of this 2019 – 2020 PCS Year will be monitored by the Medical Council.

Exceptions will be (1) doctors whose records are annotated (because they informed their Training Body of a period of certified leave greater than 3 months, e.g. sick leave, maternity leave, etc.) and (2) doctors whose requirement for PCS only began part way through the PCS year and therefore have reduced pro-rata minimum requirements for that first PCS year.

4. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANS (PDPs)

We are pleased to make a PDP template available as a tool to help you (1) assess your professional competence needs; (2) set out how you plan to meet those needs during the PCS year or coming years; (3) review your plan at the end of the PCS year.

Developing a PDP is not obligatory, but it is recommended. A PDP is your document, which you should keep with your professional competence records. You do not need to provide it to us (unless you are selected by us for a Verification Process, and your PDP forms evidence for Internal CPD credits claimed.)



Please read the following documents and then begin work on your own PDP:

- [1. PDP Guidance Document](#)
- [2. PDP Sample – an example PDP](#)
- [3. PDP Template – for you to complete](#)

You can claim **1 Internal CPD credit** for completing a PDP document; and **1 Internal CPD credit** should you choose to have it reviewed by your Peer Group, or an individual Peer. The individual reviewer can claim 1 Internal CPD credit for his/her review and discussion with you.

5. 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.**

6. CLINICAL (PRACTICE) AUDIT

The following resources may be helpful in planning and carrying out your annual Clinical (Practice) Audit:

- ✓ [GDPR & Clinical Audit](#)

- ✓ [National Office of Clinical Audit – GDPR guidance](#)
- ✓ [Clinical Audit Guides](#)

7. HOT TOPICS IN PSYCHIATRY Meetings 2019/20 Cork, Dublin & Galway

Monthly evening CPD meetings – 2 External CPD credits

The Hot Topics in Psychiatry meetings continue to offer a great opportunity to hear topical presentations from peers and experts in other disciplines; engage in lively discussion on the subject; gather CPD credits; and meet colleagues. Thanks to the college members who have worked with us, we are delighted to offer Hot Topics in Cork and Galway, as well as the regular Dublin events.

The next **CORK** Hot Topics meeting is on **Thursday 21st November** in the Clayton Hotel, Cork City.

Dr Eric Kelleher – Autoimmune Encephalitis – What the Psychiatrist needs to know

Dr Maurice Clancy – Epilepsy and Mental Illness: an overview [Book Cork Hot Topics Online](#)

On **Thursday 5th December**, **DUBLIN** Hot Topics (Ashling Hotel) will welcome **Dr Brian O’Shea** on **Phenomenology Revisited** while **Dr Zarina Mokhtar** discusses **Mental Health Disorders in Adolescents.**

[Book Dublin Hot Topics Online](#)

GALWAY Hot Topics will return on **Tuesday 14th January 2020**, thanks to Dr Elizabeth Walsh. Save the Date, details will be announced shortly!

8. Could you be a Regional Hot Topics Co-ordinator?



Thanks to Dr Louise Connolly and Dr Eric Kelleher, Cork Hot Topics is up and running! Dr Elizabeth Walsh continues to do trojan work bringing Hot Topics to Galway. We’d love to get Hot Topics established in other regions – on a quarterly or half year basis – whatever best suits the psychiatrists in that area. The PCS department will 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.

9. SPECIAL SEMINAR - ASYLUM SEEKERS / TRANSCULTURAL PSYCHIATRY **SAVE THE DATE:** **Monday afternoon, 2nd March 2020, Mullingar**

After an excellent Special Seminar on ADHD on 7th October with Dr Philip Tyndall, Dr Dimitrios Adamis and Ken Kilbride of ADHD Ireland, we are finalising the programme for our next afternoon seminar on **Transcultural Psychiatry and the Psychiatric Support Needs of Asylum Seekers.** Among the speakers bringing their experience and expertise to the afternoon will be Dr Rachael Cullivan, Dr Idris Cole, Dr Richard Duffy and a speaker from Spirasi. Psychiatric support for vulnerable asylum seekers and refugees is an increasingly important element of our practice. We hope this seminar will go some way to addressing the issues we, as psychiatrists, need to be aware of.

[Full Details will be available here shortly](#)