



## REVALIDATION for PHYSICIANS

A resource guide for physician specialties

### Allergy and Clinical Immunology

#### INTRODUCTION

The purpose of revalidation is to assure patients and the public, employers and other healthcare professionals that licensed doctors are up to date and fit to practise.

In order to maintain your licence to practice you will be expected to have at least one appraisal per year that is based on the General Medical Council's (GMC) core guidance for doctors, *Good Medical Practice*. You will need to maintain a portfolio of supporting information drawn from your current practice which demonstrates how you are continuing to meet the requirements set out by the GMC.

The GMC has set out its requirements for good medical practice, appraisal and revalidation for all doctors in three main documents. These are supported by specialty-specific guidance from the medical royal colleges and faculties, which gives the specialty context for the supporting information required for appraisal. You should therefore ensure that you are familiar with the following:

- [Good Medical Practice](#)
- [Good Medical Practice framework for appraisal and revalidation](#)
- [Supporting information for appraisal and revalidation](#)
- [Supporting information for appraisal and revalidation: guidance for physicians](#) (applicable across all physician specialties and approved by the British Society of Allergy and Clinical Immunology).

Revalidation is based on a doctor's current scope of practice. It does not dictate a set number of hours in any specialty or field of practice. All doctors, regardless of their specialty need to demonstrate that they are continuing to meet the requirements set out in Good Medical Practice.

Among the many physician specialties and subspecialties it is recognised that the details of the clinical work undertaken will differ, and that there is a great diversity of medical practice. It is important that the supporting information you provide is comprehensive and relevant to your field of practice. The purpose of this guide from the British Society of Allergy and Clinical Immunology is to signpost to informative and practical resources for collecting the supporting information required for revalidation.

In order to revalidate, you must collect supporting information as set out in the GMC's Supporting Information for appraisal and revalidation:

- general information about you and your professional work
- keeping up to date
  - CPD
- review of practice
  - quality improvement activity
  - significant events
- feedback on professional practice
  - colleague feedback
  - patient and carer feedback
  - complaints and compliments.

This guide offers signposting to information and resources which allergy practitioners will find useful as they compile their supporting information portfolio for revalidation. Involvement in any of the suggested activities does not guarantee that you will be revalidated. However, the activities are

recognised by the British Society of Allergy and Clinical Immunology as promoting the highest standards in this field.

The Royal College of Physicians hosts a revalidation helpdesk, which we recommend that you use in the event that you need advice on appraisal or revalidation: [revalidation@rcplondon.ac.uk](mailto:revalidation@rcplondon.ac.uk). You should also familiarise yourself with the resources available from the RCP: [www.rcplondon.ac.uk/revalidation](http://www.rcplondon.ac.uk/revalidation).

#### THE BRITISH SOCIETY FOR ALLERGY AND CLINICAL IMMUNOLOGY

The British Society for Allergy and Clinical Immunology (BSACI) has almost 800 members working across many medical specialties including allergy, immunology, paediatrics, ENT, dermatology and respiratory medicine.

The BSACI's core aim is to improve allergy care through education, training and research. The society provides allergy resources to its members, including clinical guidelines and organising educational meetings. A list of UK Allergy clinics is available on the public area of the website.

Information on the society's activities may be accessed through the BSACI website [www.bsaci.org](http://www.bsaci.org) and include the following:

- The BSACI Annual Meeting is a high quality meeting and a forum for discussion amongst the allergy subspecialty interest groups.
- The Standards of Care Committee was set up in 2004 to provide guidelines in each area of clinical allergy.
- 'Clinical and Experimental Allergy' is the society's well-respected international scientific journal.
- The newsletter 'Allergy Update' is published twice a year.
- Information leaflets are available on the BSACI website for members to download and hand out to patients.

The BSACI currently works with other allergy societies: the World Allergy Organisation (WAO), [www.worldallergy.org](http://www.worldallergy.org), the European Academy of Allergy and Clinical Immunology EAACI, [www.eaaci.org](http://www.eaaci.org). BSACI also works with patient charities such as Allergy UK, [www.allergyuk.org](http://www.allergyuk.org). and the Anaphylaxis Campaign [www.anaphylaxis.org.uk](http://www.anaphylaxis.org.uk). Together we have been instrumental in lobbying for better provision of allergy care in an alliance called the National Allergy Strategy group, [www.nasguk.org](http://www.nasguk.org).

Many BSACI members have given evidence at Government enquiries into allergy care, the most recent being the House of Lords Science and Technology Select Committee Report on Allergy 2007. [www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200607/ldselect/ldscstech/166/16602.htm](http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200607/ldselect/ldscstech/166/16602.htm)

#### SUB SPECIALTY INFORMATION

The BSACI Standards of Care Committee (SOCC) is responsible for the development of guidelines for the management of patients with allergic disorders in secondary care as well as initiating and leading national audits in allergy. The current chair is Dr Andrew Clark. BSACI SOCC comprises 16 members and a research officer who meet quarterly. The National Institute of Clinical Excellence (NICE) has approved the BSACI SOCC process for guideline development (valid 2010-2016). BSACI guidelines aim to adhere to the AGREE criteria [www.agreecollaboration.org](http://www.agreecollaboration.org). Guidelines and position papers are available free of charge to members of BSACI.

Current BSACI SOCC guidelines include allergic and nonallergic rhinitis, allergen immunotherapy for allergic rhinitis, anaphylaxis during general anaesthesia, chronic urticaria and angioedema, drug allergy, egg allergy, emergency anaphylactic treatment, rhinosinusitis and nasal polyposis and venom allergy and immunotherapy. Guidelines in development include guidelines for prescribing an adrenaline auto-injector, milk allergy, nut allergy and Beta-lactam allergy, [www.bsaci.org/Guidelines/bsaci-guidelines](http://www.bsaci.org/Guidelines/bsaci-guidelines).

Guidelines developed by other organisations for asthma, allergic rhinitis and its impact on asthma, anaphylaxis, eczema, food allergy, gastroenterology, urticaria and venom allergy are signposted.

The BSACI paediatric subcommittee and SOCC have highlighted guidelines for the management of allergic disorders in childhood including those from the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH).

The Primary Care Group of the BSACI develops guidelines for use by General practitioners, nurses and other health care providers as guidance for the management of patients with allergies. These guidelines are informed by the BSACI's secondary care guidelines.

#### CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (CPD)

CPD should encourage and support evidence-based changes in practice and career development and be relevant to your practice. All physicians should demonstrate 50 hours of CPD per year (250 hours over the five year revalidation cycle, of which 125 should be external).

##### **Recommended learning opportunities**

All doctors should demonstrate 50 hours of CPD per year (250 hours over the five year revalidation cycle of which 125 should be external - RCP website). Doctors should maintain a clear diary of activity. The BSACI recommend the on-line diary of the RCP:

<http://www.rcplondon.ac.uk/cpd/manage-your-cpd>

Allergy practitioners have a range of resources for continuing professional development that are signposted on the BSACI website [www.bsaci.org/meetings-and-events/index.htm](http://www.bsaci.org/meetings-and-events/index.htm) as follows:

- BSACI Annual Meeting. [www.bsaci.org/meetings-and-events/congress](http://www.bsaci.org/meetings-and-events/congress).
- BSACI regional meetings for practitioners in primary care. [www.bsaci.org/meetings-and-events/regional-meetings](http://www.bsaci.org/meetings-and-events/regional-meetings)
- BSACI offers bursaries up to £2,000 to members who wish to organise an allergy training day for those working in primary care
- Short courses. [www.bsaci.org/meetings-and-events/short-courses](http://www.bsaci.org/meetings-and-events/short-courses)
- Postgraduate courses leading to Allergy MSc, or diplomas/certificates in Allergy are signposted. [www.bsaci.org/meetings-and-events/post-graduate-courses](http://www.bsaci.org/meetings-and-events/post-graduate-courses)
- National and international meetings of interest are signposted. [www.bsaci.org/meetings-and-events/meetings](http://www.bsaci.org/meetings-and-events/meetings)
- The Allergy Academy at King's College London [www.allergyacademy.org](http://www.allergyacademy.org) offer a wide range of courses in allergy for general practitioners, hospital doctors, allergy specialists, nurses, dieticians and paediatricians.

#### QUALITY IMPROVEMENT ACTIVITY

##### **Recommended guidelines and audit resources**

Specialists in allergy are encouraged to take part in activities related to quality improvement, which can include personal audits and participation in audits at local and national level. These should include evaluation and reflection on personal input and learning

The Royal College of Physicians provides generic guidance for physicians on participating in activities relating to quality improvement for the purpose of revalidation

<http://www.rcplondon.ac.uk/cpd/revalidation/supporting-information-tools-and-templates/quality-improvement-and-revalidation>

The RCP has developed a personal clinical audit tool (p-CAT) and e-learning tools for clinical audit ([www.rcplondon.ac.uk/resources/e-learning-resources-clinical-audit](http://www.rcplondon.ac.uk/resources/e-learning-resources-clinical-audit))

The BSACI Standards of Care Committee (SOCC) is promoting and supporting the development and execution of national audits in allergy.

Dr MT Krishna, a member of SOCC, has taken the lead on this activity and has published an audit on the management of venom allergy in the UK. [www.bsaci.org](http://www.bsaci.org). He is working presently on a further audit on penicillin allergy. All BSACI members working in NHS allergy services should contribute to the audit.

The Joint Royal College of Physicians-Royal College of Pathologists Committee on Immunology and Allergy (JCIA) is developing a web-based Allergy Service Registration Scheme (Improving the Quality of Allergy Services Scheme (IQAS)). The initiative is being led by Prof Andrew Wardlaw. The aim is to improve the quality of care for people with allergic disease by both recognising and improving NHS allergy practice. The scheme allows all doctors practicing in NHS allergy services to apply for registration of his/her centre. [www.rcplondon.ac.uk/resources/improving-quality-allergy-services-iqas-registration-scheme](http://www.rcplondon.ac.uk/resources/improving-quality-allergy-services-iqas-registration-scheme)

BSACI encourages excellence by offering annual awards that recognise outstanding contributions in allergy practice (William Frankland Award) and research (Jack Pepys Lectureship).

#### FEEDBACK ON PRACTICE

The Royal College of Physicians of London provides important information about the revalidation process, and tools to use for patient and colleague feedback are provided (<http://www.rcplondon.ac.uk/cpd/revalidation/supporting-information-tools-and-templates>)

In addition physicians can also use feedback tools approved/commissioned by their employing NHS Trusts, provided that these comply with the criteria for validity set out by the GMC ([http://www.gmc-uk.org/doctors/revalidation/colleague\\_patient\\_feedback.asp](http://www.gmc-uk.org/doctors/revalidation/colleague_patient_feedback.asp)) .