REVALIDATION for PHYSICIANS

A resource guide for physician specialties

Nuclear Medicine

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 Nuclear Medicine Society).

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 Nuclear Medicine Society 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 nuclear medicine physicians 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 Nuclear Medicine Society 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 they need advice on appraisal or revalidation: revalidation@rcplondon.ac.uk. You should also familiarise yourself with the resources available from the RCP: www.rcplondon.ac.uk/revalidation.

BRITISH NUCLEAR MEDICINE SOCIETY

The British Nuclear Medicine Society (BNMS) is a registered charity established in 1966 with over 400 paid-up members drawn from multidisciplinary groups (December 2012) and is the professional voice of nuclear medicine in the UK. The Society's statutory objectives are "to raise the profile of nuclear medicine; engage with all health care providers involved in the clinical use of radionuclides; provide a forum for the communication of advances in nuclear medicine; provide resources and encourage the provision of education and training to support continuing professional development; represent the specialty on and with official bodies and advisory committees; develop and promote standards and guidelines for the safe and effective practice of nuclear medicine; promote nuclear medicine research and development; improve the level of support to isolated departments; provide greater information for the benefit of patients; and promote and support the revalidation of practitioners".

The Society's main activities include:

Developing and promoting optimum standards of care.
Activities include the production of Quality Standards, Audit Tools, feedback and national benchmarking, Commissioning and Service Development advice and guidance; and workforce development, monitoring and support (via the work of its Professional Standards, Molecular Radiotherapy, Education and Scientific Committees, and through the work of BNMS Council. The Society works at government and Health Department level across the UK, providing information and advice when required.

Promoting and disseminating research and innovation
Activities include the production of the journal *Nuclear Medicine Communications*; the annual Spring Meeting; the policy work of the Science & Education Committees and participation with other groups involved in research in Nuclear Medicine and with Industry. The Society promotes innovation and best practice directly and in collaboration with others, applying for, and promoting, relevant Awards which recognise achievement and innovation.

Promoting and advancing knowledge
Activities include the provision of a wide range of educational opportunities via the work of the Education Committee (the BNMS Autumn Training Day; short courses; and e-learning and related collaborations); and the production of BNMS position statements about matters related to the provision Nuclear Medicine services in the UK. The Society works pro-actively and reactively, and in partnership with other groups involved in the provision of patient care involving nuclear medicine.

Information on the Society can be found here: www.bnms.org.uk

SUB SPECIALTY INFORMATION

The British Nuclear Medicine Society has been at the forefront of guideline production for over 20 years. Procedural and Clinical Guidelines representing good clinical practice have been developed across a wide variety of indications ranging from generic to specialist topics. BNMS Guidelines are based on available evidence, are regularly updated and are available to download free from the BNSS website (www.bnms.org.uk). Relevant guidelines developed by other professional groups are also referenced on the BNMS website. BNMS quality standards have been produced that underpin the Society's commitment to driving service improvement and promoting excellence in patient care.

Those working in nuclear medicine are involved in a number of Specialist areas including:

- Molecular Radiotherapy

- Nuclear Cardiology
- Nuclear Neurology
- Paediatric Nuclear Medicine
- PET-CT and PET MR

In addition to Procedural and Clinical Guidelines there are other guidelines available to guide clinicians involved in Nuclear Medicine: These are set out as follows:

Royal College of Radiology Referral Guidelines (http://www.rcr.ac.uk/content.aspx?PageID=995)

Evidence-based guidelines for PET-CT (http://www.rcplondon.ac.uk/resources/evidence-based-indications-use-pet-ct-uk-2012)

Further details of the specialty can be found in the RCP publication: Consultant Physicians working for Patients, 2011:

http://www.rcplondon.ac.uk/resources/consultant-physicians-working-patients-5th-edition
http://www.rcplondon.ac.uk/resources/consultant-physicians-working-patients-nuclear-medicine

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

Consultants working in the field of Nuclear Medicine draw upon a range of resources for Continuing Professional Development (CPD) including:

- BNMS e-learning modules (in development)
- BNMS One day Meeting (annual event focusing on continuing professional education)
- BNMS Annual meeting (the annual national and international conference for clinical and scientific research in nuclear medicine)
- BNMS short courses (e.g. boot camp held in advance of the annual meeting)

None of these courses or activities is mandatory for Nuclear Medicine clinicians but the Society aims to offer a balanced portfolio of educational activities to assist its members in maintaining high standards of clinical practice.

Full details of all BNMS conferences and courses can be found here:
www.bnms.org.uk

Furthermore, Nuclear Medicine Clinicians derive CPD from other sources including overseas meetings in Europe (e.g. European Association of Nuclear Medicine) and in North America (e.g. Society Nuclear Medicine & Molecular Imaging).

QUALITY IMPROVEMENT ACTIVITY

BNMS Audit Programme

1 Organisational Audit. The British Nuclear Medicine Society offers a nationally recognised programme of quality improvement based on the IAEA Document entitled QUANUM. This audit programme is available on-line which allows BNMS members and others with the tools to audit, benchmark and identify areas for improvement in local provision of nuclear medicine services. (http://www.bnms.org.uk/about/department-accreditation/audit-and-standards-activities.html).

Organisational audit is voluntary but it is the recommendation of the BNMS that each NM department should participate in a quality standard such as QUANUM and that this exercise should be carried out twice in a 5 year cycle. This can be done internally but BNMS recommends that once in a five year cycle the audit is accompanied by a one day visit of an external team determined by the

BNMS.

European Accreditation. There is an option for Nuclear Medicine Departments to seek Departmental Accreditation through the EANM/UEMS (http://uems.eanm.org/index.php?id=46). Departmental accreditation is viewed as a badge of provision of high quality Nuclear Medicine service.

ISAS. For Nuclear Medicine Departments which are purely Imaging departments there is the opportunity to take part in the Imaging Services Accreditation Scheme (ISAS) which has recently been adapted to include Nuclear Medicine Imaging Services,
http://www.rcr.ac.uk/content.aspx?PageID=1519

2 Adverse Event Reporting. Other forms of Departmental quality assessment include participation in BNMS Schemes for adverse event and radiopharmaceutical issue reporting such as:

Adverse Event Reporting (http://www.bnms.org.uk/adverse-event/defect-reporting/adverse-event-reporting-information.html)

Radiopharmaceutical Defect Reporting

3 Clinical Audit
Clinicians involved in Nuclear Medicine have the opportunity to be involved in clinical audit at a number of levels:

3.1 Diagnosis.
There are a number of tools available to allow the measurement, assessment and reflection on discrepancies in clinical practice in diagnosis. These are set out by the Royal College of Radiologists section on Clinical Radiology Revalidation Tools and includes guidance on revalidation tools including peer review, self review and participation in discrepancy meetings.
https://www.rcr.ac.uk/content.aspx?PageID=1930

These include generic and specialty-specific tools
Generic

- Reflection on complaints and compliments
- Reflection on Serious Untoward Incidents (SUIs)
- Revalidation CPD
- Supporting information for health
- Supporting information for probity

Specialty-Specific

- Multi-source feedback based on specialty-specific questions related to performance
- Peer review (double reporting) including use of 5 point concordance/discrepancy rating.
- Participation in national clinical Audit (e.g. PET-CT)
- Personal reflection on discrepancies and adverse events
- Self review of practice for diagnostic work
- Recording of attendance at discrepancy meetings
- Case-based discussions for Nuclear Medicine Clinicians

3.2 Therapy
Tools are available to allow assessment of performance in therapy. This includes:

- Multisource feedback: colleagues
- Multi-source feedback: patients
- Case-based discussions
- Morbidity and Mortality Meetings
- Reflection on Significant Untoward Events
- Reflection on near-miss events

- Reflection on compliments
- Reflection on criticism

Tools for recording and reflecting on the above are available on the Royal College of Clinical Oncologists website at http://www.rcr.ac.uk/content.aspx?PageID=1929

4 National Audits

A number of national audits are available (or in development) in nuclear medicine:

- Prospective National DaTSCAN Audit. 2013 onwards
- SeHCAT audit (in development 2013/14)

It is therefore likely that Nuclear Medicine Clinicians will present evidence of participation in National Audit as part of their portfolio of evidence demonstrating safe practice.

BNMS Therapy Registry

BNMS are in the process of developing a registry of in patients entering treatment using peptide receptor radionuclide therapy (PRRT). The background to this is that there is a lack of a robust evidence base for patients receiving PRRT. It is planned to develop this registry to collect data on and better define patients entering treatment with PRRT. Once open participation from clinicians working with patients with advanced neuro-endocrine malignancy will be encouraged.

FEEDBACK ON PRACTICE

The RCP provides validated colleague and patient feedback questionnaires with accompanying guidance. http://www.rcplondon.ac.uk/cpd/revalidation/supporting-information-tools-and-templates.

Physicians can use feedback tools approved/commissioned by their employing NHS Trusts. Instruments used for this element of revalidation must meet the guidelines published by the GMC: http://www.gmc-uk.org/doctors/revalidation/colleague_patient_feedback.asp.

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