



REVALIDATION for PHYSICIANS

A resource guide for physician specialties

Renal Medicine/Nephrology

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 Renal Association).

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 Renal Association 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 nephrologists 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 Renal Association as promoting the highest standards in the field of nephrology.

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. You should also familiarise yourself with the resources available from the RCP: www.rcplondon.ac.uk/revalidation.

THE RENAL ASSOCIATION

The Renal Association: <http://www.renal.org> is the professional body for United Kingdom nephrologists and renal scientists in the UK. It is active in the planning and development of renal services and nephrology in Britain. It is also involved in the promotion and dissemination of research and education relating to the specialty.

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

Renal Association Congress

<http://www.renal.org>

British Renal Symposium Congress

<http://www.britishrenal.org>

European Renal Association - European Dialysis and Transplant Association Congress

<http://www.era-edta.org>

American Society of Nephrology Congress

<http://www.asn-online.org>

World Congress of Nephrology

<http://www.theisn.org>

British Transplantation Society Congress

<http://www.bts.org.uk>

American Transplant Congress

<http://www.a-s-t.org>

International Society of Peritoneal Dialysis Congress

<http://ispd.org>

This is not meant to be an all-inclusive list and some nephrologists will obtain valid CPD points by attendance at other regional, national or international meetings not listed here.

QUALITY IMPROVEMENT ACTIVITY

Recommended Guidelines and audit resources

The Clinical Practice Guidelines committee of the Renal Association prepares guidelines for the renal community in the UK. The guidelines provide a template for the management of patients with kidney disease in the UK and define the data collected by the Renal Registry.

<http://www.renal.org/Clinical/GuidelinesSection/Guidelines.aspx>

Additional guidelines pertaining to renal transplantation have been compiled by working parties of the British Transplantation Society.

<http://www.bts.org.uk>

Clinical Outcomes data

The UK Renal Registry: <http://www.renalreg.com> provides a focus for the collection and analysis of

standardised data relating to the incidence, clinical management and outcome of renal disease. It thus acts as a source of comparative data, for audit/benchmarking, planning, clinical governance and research. The UK Renal Registry monitors indicators of the quality as well as quantity of care, with the aim of improving the standard of care. There is currently a concentration on data concerning renal replacement therapy, including transplantation. Reports are published annually to allow comparative audit of facilities, patient demographics, quality of care and outcome measures.

FEEDBACK ON PRACTICE

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.

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