

## REVALIDATION for PHYSICIANS

A resource guide for physician specialties

### RHEUMATOLOGY

#### 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 for Rheumatology).

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 for Rheumatology 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 rheumatologists 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 for Rheumatology as promoting the highest standards in the field of Rheumatology.

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).

#### BRITISH SOCIETY FOR RHEUMATOLOGY

The British Society for Rheumatology ([www.rheumatology.org.uk](http://www.rheumatology.org.uk)) provides information, standards and guidelines in relation to the management of rheumatological disorders. Audit tools are provided with all BSR guidelines.

#### SUB SPECIALTY INFORMATION

Arthritis and Musculoskeletal Alliance ([www.arma.uk.net](http://www.arma.uk.net))  
British Health Professionals in Rheumatology ([www.rheumatology.org.uk/bhpr](http://www.rheumatology.org.uk/bhpr))  
British Society for Paediatric and Adolescent Rheumatology ([www.bspar.org.uk](http://www.bspar.org.uk))  
Arthritis Research UK ([www.arthritisresearchuk.org](http://www.arthritisresearchuk.org))  
Primary Care Rheumatology Society ([www.pcrsociety.org](http://www.pcrsociety.org))

#### 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

BSR annual scientific meeting –“Rheumatology”

[http://www.rheumatology.org.uk/events/conference\\_overview/default.aspx](http://www.rheumatology.org.uk/events/conference_overview/default.aspx)

American College of Rheumatology (ACR) Annual Meeting <http://www.rheumatology.org/>

European League against Rheumatism (EULAR) annual meeting <http://www.eular.org/>

Regional Rheumatology Societies (information available via BSR Regional web pages

[http://www.rheumatology.org.uk/about\\_bsr/default.aspx](http://www.rheumatology.org.uk/about_bsr/default.aspx)

Information about other relevant CPD opportunities is available on the “Events Calendar” page of BSR website. <http://www.rheumatology.org.uk/events/default.aspx>

There are many subspecialties within rheumatology and some rheumatologists will obtain important contributions to their CPD by attending meetings hosted by disease-specific special interest groups. This is not meant to be an all-inclusive list and some rheumatologists may obtain valid CPD points by attendance at other regional, national or international meetings not listed here.

#### QUALITY IMPROVEMENT ACTIVITY

##### Recommended guidelines and audit resources

BSR plans National Audits and promotes Regional Audits. BSR guidelines are accredited by NICE. Audit tools are provided with all BSR guidelines. All future guidelines will also have standards of care linked to them. BSR plans to establish a library of audit tools. BSR promotes participation in BSR Biologic Registers and other national BSR supported databases.

[http://www.rheumatology.org.uk/resources/guidelines/bsr\\_guidelines.aspx](http://www.rheumatology.org.uk/resources/guidelines/bsr_guidelines.aspx)

[http://www.rheumatology.org.uk/resources/bsr\\_biologics\\_registers/default.aspx](http://www.rheumatology.org.uk/resources/bsr_biologics_registers/default.aspx)

BSR promotes Peer Review in Regions where schemes are available.

Information and reflection on individualised or rheumatology unit data regarding such activities may be valuable for inclusion at appraisal. All Rheumatologists should practise in line with BSR or NICE guidance, and where this is not possible, variation in practice should be documented. If team data is used then reflection should include the individual’s contribution and learning.

## 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](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 validated tools to use for patient and colleague feedback: (<http://www.rcplondon.ac.uk/cpd/revalidation/supporting-information-tools-and-templates>)