

Continuing Professional Development Results– What happens next?



Dr. Deirdre McAree, Post-Registration Facilitator provides an update on this year's CPD cycle

Pharmacists will be aware that once their CPD portfolios are assessed, they receive feedback with one of four possible results (Options 1,2,3,4). Where portfolios have been awarded options 1 and 2 no further action is required on the part of the pharmacist. Whilst option 3 portfolios have reached the required standard, the pharmacist will be asked to submit a CPD portfolio the following year. This is to help pharmacists to improve their documentation as some of their cycles have not met the assessment criteria. Where a portfolio has been awarded an Option 4, pharmacists will receive notification that they are to submit further CPD cycles as part of the Reassessment Process.

CPD and the reassessment process

The Society operates the reassessment process in order to assist individual pharmacists who have had difficulty recording their CPD. This involves the submission of three CPD cycles. Throughout the process, the Society can provide support and facilitation to pharmacists who request this. The support is provided through the network of trained facilitators and the Post-registration Facilitator. Anyone wishing to

speak to a facilitator should contact the Society in the first instance.

Reassessment portfolios

Reassessment portfolios are currently being assessed. The usual CPD assessment criteria apply. Detailed feedback is provided by assessors for each individual cycle in a reassessment portfolio.

- Pharmacists are asked to submit three CPD cycles, which will be part of the following year's portfolio. For example someone receiving an Option 4 result for 2006-07 portfolio will be submitting cycles which are part of their 2007-08 portfolio
- The online system for reassessment has been designed to enable pharmacists to make their submission once they have three completed cycles in the reassessment portfolio
- For paper-based submissions, again only three cycles will be required and pharmacists should not submit more or less than three cycles.
- Once assessed, the reassessment portfolio will either reach the Society's CPD standard or will fall below the standard

- The standard has been achieved if two or three cycles meet the assessment criteria
- A portfolio will not reach the CPD standard if less than two of the cycles meet the assessment criteria i.e. 0/3 or 1/3 reach standard
- The number of hours recorded for the CPD activities is included in each cycle, but there is NO current requirement to achieve a defined number of hours as part of the reassessment process

In the event that reassessment portfolios do not meet the CPD standard, pharmacists will be advised to make use of the CPD facilitation service. Pharmacists will be asked to submit three further CPD cycles for reassessment and will be advised of the deadline for submission.

Commenting on the end of this year's CPD cycle, Dr Deirdre McAree, Post-registration Facilitator said:

"I'm pleased to report that over 70% of all pharmacists assessed for 2006-07 met the Society's standard for CPD – a great result. For pharmacists who received an Option 4, the reassessment process should assist them to reach the Society's CPD standard next time their portfolio is assessed".

Table outlining the results for portfolios assessed 2006-07 (n=280)

Result	Range of CPD cycles meeting standard	% pharmacists
Option 1	≥70%	40%
Option 2	55 – 69%	13.9%
Option 3	40 – 54%	17.5%
Option 4	<40%	28.6%

Society to Inaugurate Patient and Public Involvement Forum

An integral part of the Society's vision for the Future of Pharmacy Registration, Regulation and Representation in Northern Ireland is the operation of a Patient and Public Forum.

This forum will act as an insurance mechanism that Society policy takes full cognisance of the views and aspirations of those who receive pharmacy services: the Northern Ireland public.

The first meeting of the forum will be held in the Radisson hotel on Tuesday 25th

November 2008 and will include representatives from the Commission for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence, Arthritis UK and the Citizen's Advice Bureau.

Whilst many industry regulators now operate such forums (such as Ofcom, the Financial Services Authority and the National Institute for Clinical Effectiveness) the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland will be amongst the

first of the nine health professional regulators in the UK to institute such a measure.

Commenting on the forum's construction, Mark Neale, Head of Public Affairs and Facilitator for the forum, said: *"The new patient and public forum is a great step forward in terms of how the Society forms policy. It will ensure we listen, take account of and respond to the views of the ultimate recipient of pharmacy services: the public."*