



Notice regarding Professional Competence Schemes (PCS) for Registered Medical Practitioners from the Forum of Irish Postgraduate Medical Training Bodies Sub Committee on Professional Competence.

It is the responsibility of each individual RMP to maintain their Professional Competence as defined by the Medical Council

Professional Competence Schemes (PCS) for Registered Medical Practitioners (RMPs) are currently scheduled to begin in May 2011. PCS are statutorily underpinned structures established by the Medical Council in conjunction with Postgraduate Training Bodies which have been formally recognised for this function. Under Part 11 of the Medical Practitioners Act and as a consequence of rules made by the Medical Council, all registered medical practitioners in the specialist and general divisions of the medical register must maintain their professional competence by pursuing a PCS. Further information is available at <http://www.medicalcouncil.ie/Media-Centre/News/2010/Public-Consultation-on-Rules-for-Professional-Competence.html>.

All RMPs will be circulated in due course regarding what they will be required to do to fulfil their obligations. In the meantime, the broad requirements have been specified by the Medical Council and these details are accessible at <http://www.medicalcouncil.ie/Professional-Development/Professional-Competence/Professional-Competence-Schemes/>

Information will be updated and posted on a regular basis on the web sites of the PGTBs and the Irish Medical Council (IMC).

RMPs will be informed regarding enrolment details and policies

All RMPs regardless of their divisional registration status or existing alignment to a postgraduate training body will be given adequate opportunity to enrol on an appropriate PCS

Until further notice RMPs are encouraged to respond to communications from the IMC or PGTBs when response is sought.

RMPs are encouraged to visit the PGTBs and IMC web sites on a regular basis

PGTBs and the IMC will be in contact re enrolment policies and requirements

All RMPs will start the PCS on an equal basis.

Professional competence activity or lack of same prior to the enrolment date will not form any part of the statutory PCS.

In order to comply with this each PGTB will require have in place or collaborate to have:

- A mechanism for Enrolment on a Professional Competence Scheme for all registered doctors aligned or otherwise.

- A mechanism to record the required points (50)
- A reporting structure – once a year to the Medical Council
- A verification process
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Costs for a PCS are currently being discussed at the Forums committee for Professional Competence and at the Professional Competence Steering Group.

Under the IMC's rules any fees for a PCS will have to be approved by the IMC.

The RCPI, RCSI, COAI and the College of Psychiatry have worked extensively on draft PCS and are willing to share their experience with other PGTBs.

The enactment of section 11 of the MPA 2007 and the going live of PCS in May 2011 is only the first part of the evolution of Professional Competence Schemes

A Professional Competence scheme helps to ensure that registrants are maintaining their professional competence in line with their statutory duty and pursuant to requirements specified by the Medical Council in Standards for the Maintenance of Professional Competence. The structures established in May 2011 will not systematically assess and revalidate the professional competence of all RMPs.

- In line with statutory requirements set out in Part 11 of the Medical Practitioners Act, the arrangements established in May 2011 will be reviewed and further developed by the Medical Council with a view to the feasibility of effectively undertaking systematic assessment and revalidation of all RMPs. Such development would depend on a number of requirements including: Effective operation of existing PCS;
- Development of national generic and specialty specific standards for assessment and revalidation by the Medical Council and Postgraduate Training Bodies.
- Mature and consistent local Clinical Governance processes;
- The development of relevant, implementable, funded and applicable national standards by HIQA to assure local Clinical Governance Processes through licensing.

The IMC and the PGTBs will have appropriate PCS for non aligned RMPs and for RMPs not engaged in clinical practice.

The IMC following appropriate consultation and deliberation will advise retired doctors regarding their obligations.

John McAdoo

Chair

Forum Sub Committee on Professional Competence