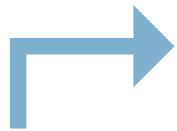


Professional appraisal and support, and capacity building



Continuing professional development is a professional obligation for all public health professionals, both medical and non-medical, but there are currently different legal requirements for professional appraisal of public health specialists who are doctors and those from a non-medical background.

Since November 2009, a doctor must have held a licence to practise medicine. It is planned that this licence should be renewed every five years in a process known as revalidation.

The Medical Profession (Responsible Officers) Regulations 2010 give senior doctors in designated bodies functions for specified doctors that will ensure doctors are regularly appraised and where there are concerns about a doctor's fitness to practise, they are investigated and, where appropriate, referred to the General Medical Council.

The regulations also give the Secretary of State for Health the powers to nominate a responsible officer for a designated body where the body has failed to nominate or appoint a responsible officer in accordance with regulations or where the body appoints a person that does not meet the conditions set out in regulations.

We recognise that for specialists working in Public Health England and in local authorities, revalidation will be an important focus for maintaining and improving their practice. Responsible officers will play a crucial role in the process of medical revalidation.

Non-medical specialists are not currently subject to the same legal requirements in relation to revalidation. However, the Department of Health will also expect non-medical public health specialists to undergo a professional appraisal.

We are considering a number of options including guidance to encourage this process to take place.

The Faculty of Public Health is the standard-setting body for specialists in public health and has an important role in continuing professional development. The Faculty also provides guidance on both appraisal and revalidation.

The Faculty has also published Good Public Health Practice that sets out the general professional expectations of public health professionals.

We know that specialists in public health will be committed to following this guidance. Public health leaders in Public Health England will support this,





for example, by offering to conduct professional appraisal for directors of public health and for public health specialists in local authorities.

The professional appraisal will link with the managerial appraisal undertaken by local authority chief executives.

Public Health England will support public health professionals to follow frameworks of good practice and will work with local government to improve and innovate in public health practice.



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