

19 October 2012

CEOs and MDs of all Designated Bodies in England
NHSCB ROs

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CC CEO Monitor
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Your Ref: Gateway 18261

Dear Colleague

Subject: Medical Revalidation

On behalf of the Department of Health and NHS Commissioning Board we are delighted that the Secretary of State has today announced the commencement of revalidation in England in December 2012.

This represents a major step forward in both the effective regulation of doctors and the creation in law of further measures to improve quality and safety of care across the entire health sector. Medical revalidation, and the associated mandatory requirements for individual licensed doctors, responsible officers and designated bodies, will provide additional assurance to patients and should improve confidence in the quality and safety of the services commissioned and provided for them.

In preparing for revalidation, we have already seen significant improvement in clinical governance and in appraisal processes for doctors, but there is still room for considerable further improvement in the coming months and years.

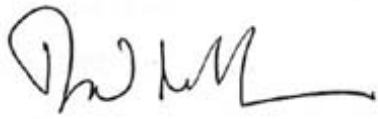
This is the start of a process that will bring quality to the fore; an example of a practical enabler that underpins all of the domains of the NHS CB's quality and outcomes frameworks designed to transform the health service.

We urge responsible officers of designated bodies and their boards to embrace, champion and maximise the impact of the process of revalidation as part of their quality improvement programmes. We are confident, based on evidence from the Organisational Readiness Self Assessment (ORSA) process, that the health sector is well-placed to further strengthen systems at local, regional and national level in the future.

We will maintain a firm grip on implementation and will continue to monitor the organisational readiness and implementation plans of all designated bodies through the implementation stages to a 'business as usual' state in years to come.

Boards of designated bodies should lead and promote this process in their organisations and we would be grateful if your boards discuss this letter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'D Nicholson', written on a light-colored background.

Sir David Nicholson
NHS Chief Executive

A handwritten signature in black ink, clearly legible as 'Bruce Keogh', written on a light-colored background.

Sir Bruce Keogh
NHS Medical Director