

## GP Update - December 2016

Dear Colleague,

Please find below an update and some links to important information to support you through your appraisal year.

### **NHS GP Health Service**

As part of a broader package of support, the General Practice Forward View is committed to improve access to mental health support for general practitioners and trainee GPs who may be suffering from mental ill-health including stress, depression, addiction and burnout.

A new NHS GP Health service has been developed and The Hurley Clinic Partnership has been appointed provider of this service, which is expected to be launched in January 2017.

The service is an important part of our commitment to help retain a healthy and resilient workforce and in supporting GPs and GP trainees who wish to remain in or return to clinical practice after a period of ill health.

Follow this link for more information <https://www.england.nhs.uk/ourwork/gp-fv/gp-health/>

### **GPs with Special Interest**

Thank you to all doctors who have responded to the recent request for information regarding special interests. We know the RCGP and GMC are undertaking work on accreditation and credentialing and we will keep you informed as that evolves. Knowing which GPs are in this cohort means we will not contact all of you but if you do not have a scope of practice which extends beyond core primary care and wish to be kept informed please let us know.

### **RCGP Supporting information for Appraisal & Revalidation**

There is a continuing need to ensure that revalidation, delivered through annual appraisal, supports GPs in their personal and professional development and facilitates quality improvements in practice. The new RCGP Guide to Supporting Information for Appraisal and Revalidation aims to reduce inconsistencies in interpretation of requirements and simplify and streamline the appraisal and revalidation process.

- [RCGP Guide to supporting information for appraisal and revalidation](#) (March 2016)
- A brief introduction to the new [RCGP Guide to Supporting Information for Appraisal and Revalidation](#)

### **RCGP Mythbusters**

The intention of the RCGP Mythbusters is to dispel some of the misconceptions around revalidation and appraisal and, in conjunction with the [Guide to Supporting Information for Appraisal and Revalidation](#), promote a fair, supportive, and constructive revalidation and appraisal process. [RCGP Mythbusters: Addressing common misunderstandings about Appraisal and Revalidation](#)

### **Appraisal Preparation**

Medical appraisal is now a universal process for the profession, supporting accountability, professional development and patient care. The quality of a doctor's appraisal inputs is fundamental to the quality of their appraisal. [Improving the inputs to medical appraisal \(NHS England 2016\)](#) supports this aim and is a useful read.

**NHS England West Midlands Locality Team**

**Tel: 011382 51931 Email: [england.appraisals-westmidlands@nhs.net](mailto:england.appraisals-westmidlands@nhs.net)**

## **Appraisal Documentation**

Doctors are reminded to submit completed paperwork to their appraiser at least 2 weeks prior to the agreed appraisal meeting to allow the appraiser to prepare for the meeting.

## **Appraisal Postponements**

Where a doctor is unable to complete their appraisal by their due date a completed [postponement form](#) needs to be emailed to [england.appraisals-westmidlands@nhs.net](mailto:england.appraisals-westmidlands@nhs.net) with a valid reason for consideration. Please note it is acceptable for you to undertake your appraisal prior to the agreed date but to postpone it to a later date does require the Responsible Officer's approval. A form is also required for postponements due to maternity leave and long term sick.

## **Appraisal Allocations**

Appraisals are being allocated 9-12 months in advance to enable doctors to schedule their appraisal in advance. A date should be arranged as soon as possible after the initial appraisal notification email. Automated reminders commence 90 days before the allocated month and continue until the appraiser has updated RMS with an agreed date.

## **Doctors Working Abroad**

Doctors are advised to email [england.appraisals-westmidlands@nhs.net](mailto:england.appraisals-westmidlands@nhs.net) if they are working abroad or intend to work abroad for any period of time. Whilst working abroad, the doctor may require a skype appraisal if their appraisal is due during that time. Only Appraisal Leads are appointed to carry out skype appraisals on behalf of the West Midlands team.

## **MAG Forms**

Doctors using the MAG form for their appraisal should note that the new format requires a new blank form to be used each year.

## **Contact Information**

Doctors are requested to advise the team by email of any changes in work circumstances such as status, change of practice, email and telephone number.

## **GMC**

Doctors who are contacted by the GMC in respect of any patient complaints or concerns regarding their practice are encouraged to contact NHS England West Midlands at an early stage and speak to Dr Francis Campbell or Dr Sarah Marwick

## **Transfers**

Doctors who are planning to transfer out of the West Midlands to another locality are advised to email [england.appraisals-westmidlands@nhs.net](mailto:england.appraisals-westmidlands@nhs.net) and provide a copy of the NPL2 so that appraisal and revalidation records can be transferred to the new team.

Equally where Doctors are transferring into the West Midlands from another locality they are advised to email [england.appraisals-westmidlands@nhs.net](mailto:england.appraisals-westmidlands@nhs.net) with a completed NPL2, copy of indemnity and details of previous locality team so that appraisal and revalidation records can be updated.

**The medical directorate would like to wish all doctors best wishes for the holiday season and a Happy New Year**

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