



CPD in the Healthcare & Medical Sector

Membership Support Factsheet 32



 +44 (0)20 3745 6463
 info@cpdstandards.com
 The Old Station, Moor Lane, Staines upon Thames,
TW18 4BB

Factsheet 32 - Revised - 0324

The CPD Standards Office
INDEPENDENTLY ACCREDITED CPD
www.cpdstandards.com





This factsheet provides details on CPD within the healthcare industry and the annual requirements for professionals in this sector.

Almost every professional working within the healthcare industry engages in some sort of CPD, whether required to do so by the professional body they are aligned to or voluntarily. For example, CPD must be completed by all licensed and actively practising doctors, surgeons, and physicians in order to stay current and maintain their status as qualified practitioners. Every five years, doctors are required to complete revalidation, which includes showing proof of undertaking CPD.

Committing to undertaking regular CPD activities gives confidence to employers and the general public that the healthcare professionals looking after them are working to a high standard and keeping up to date with all regulations within their field.

THE GENERAL MEDICAL COUNCIL (GMC)

All practising doctors are required to maintain a standard of medical practice by undertaking annual CPD activities. The GMC stipulates that its members are responsible for doing enough appropriate CPD to remain up-to-date and fit to practice in work, and also be able to demonstrate this at appraisals, but do not provide any specific guidance.

Most royal medical colleges and faculties have developed CPD schemes or guidance to support doctors in maintaining and developing their professional standards in their specialities. The colleges and faculties require healthcare professionals participating in these schemes to obtain a specified number of CPD credits over five years.

General Medical Council



SOME EXAMPLES OF THESE COLLEGES AND THEIR SCHEMES INCLUDE:

- Royal College of Anaesthetists (RCOA) - The College recommends that doctors complete a minimum of **50 hours of CPD per year**, but most doctors exceed this. Of the 50 hours per year, the RCOA recommends that a minimum of 20 hours per year should be completed in each external and internal activity.
- Royal College of Surgeons of England (RCSeng) - RCSeng members must accrue **50 hours of CPD per annum**, and at least **250 hours over the course of the revalidation cycle**. These hours should cover clinical, academic and professional (including managerial) topics.
- Royal College of Emergency Medicine (RCEM) - RCEM considers an average of **50 hours of relevant CPD per year, or 250 hours over 5 years**, to be the recommended minimum requirement for emergency physicians.
- Royal College of Physicians of London (RCP) - All physicians who are registered with the RCP to use the online CPD diary scheme are required to complete a minimum of **50 CPD credits per year**. The CPD diary runs on an annual cycle, from 1 April to 31 March, and the college provides a wealth of CPD courses and resources.
- Royal College of Radiologists (RCR) - All Radiologists who have a license to practice and wish to remain on the General Medical Council's (GMC) register are required to provide documentation that they are participating in CPD to keep up to date for revalidation. The RCR provide a CPD record for Members and Fellows to keep a log of their CPD activities.

CPD OUTSIDE OF THE UK

Professionals working in the medical sector are expected to maintain their knowledge and skills no matter what country they practice in. However, CPD schemes do vary across countries, states and provinces.

USA



In the USA, CPD is referred to as Continuing Education (CE), and the regulating body – the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) – defines the standards for CE in the United States.

The ACCME oversees the institutions providing CME and is made up of seven founding organisations that consist of other medical associations.

The CE requirements, in terms of how much CE is necessary, and how long the cycle is for medical practitioners in the USA vary from state to state.

Canada



In Canada, the College of Family Physicians certifies CE training activities and stipulates that medical professionals must complete 50 hours of CE each year and the cycle lasts for five years.

As you can see, even across different countries, the general rule of thumb for medical professionals is to complete at least 250 hours of CE/CPD over a five year period.

Italy



In Italy, CPD is referred to as Continuing Medical Education (CME). The requirements are set by the Government and vary across different provinces. If an Italian medical professional undertakes CPD training or attends an event internationally, they can only count 50% worth of the CPD points they earn to their record. (One CPD hour/point equates to half a CPD hour/point in Italy)

Australia



The Australian Medical Association (AMA) oversees CPD in Australia for medical professionals, ask their members to undertake a minimum of 50 hours of CPD per year.