

CPD requirements and the impact of COVID-19 for Physicians

The below guidance is for Physicians. Physician Associates should refer [here](#) for the latest COVID-19 guidance for Physician Associates including CPD requirements. The CPD deadline for all users is now Friday 31 July 2020. To take advantage of the new deadline, you will have to update the CPD Diary directly instead of the app.

We wish to offer clarification and reassurance regarding the CPD credit requirements in the current climate. We are aware that some of you will be in the unfortunate position of having had your CPD activity cancelled or postponed due to the developing COVID-19 situation as we reach the end of the 2019/20 CPD year. In addition, the situation for the next CPD year, 2020/21, is now looking uncertain.

With regard to the usual CPD rules, we should like to emphasise the following:

- The Federation annual credit requirements (50 overall with 25 external) are recommendations only. The GMC as the regulator does not require a fixed number of CPD credits.
- Within the Federation guidelines if there is a shortfall in one year this can normally be addressed in other years as long as the 5 year recommendations are met (250 over the 5 years, half external)

However, in the face of the current COVID-19 pandemic, we propose varying these requirements. **We are waiving all numerical CPD credit targets.** We will support a flexible approach to CPD requirements for the remainder of the current CPD year and, in addition, for the next CPD year. Of greater importance than the number of credits obtained will be that Physicians show evidence of engagement with the CPD process and with reflection. This will of course be judged by appraisers, but we hope that appraisers will very much take this statement into account when assessing CPD.

No requirement to 'make up' credits

We should also like to emphasise that there will not be a requirement to 'make up' credits relating to the time of the pandemic in future years.

Personal credits

The diary allows physicians to record as many personal credits as they wish and the overall total is included on the annual CPD certificate but only 10 personal credits can count towards the usual recommended total of 50. As stated above the requirement for 50 credits has been waived for the 2019-20 and the 2020-21 diary years, but for technical IT reasons it is difficult to arrange a temporary change to reflect this in the CPD system as the 'rule' is embedded in the system in a number of ways. However, we are requesting that

appraisers acknowledge the extent and value of both personal CPD and distance learning during the 2 CPD years in question.

Information for appraisers

We have added a statement to the annual CPD certificates alerting appraisers to our advice on CPD credits during the pandemic.

Live Streaming and Webinars

During pandemic, we understand that you may not be able to tune-in to a live streamed event or webinar as a result of clinical pressures. Therefore, if you view an archived version of a Federation approved live-streamed event or live webinar within four weeks of it being broadcast you can still claim it as approved external CPD. You can use the approval code provided for the live event for up to four weeks after the event date. The number of credits will be the same as for the live event or webinar.

Distance Learning

For the 2020/21 CPD year there will be no limit to the number of external credits that can be claimed for distance learning. In addition to the maximum of 10 approved distance learning credits, you can also add distance learning under the 'Add self certified entry' tab. Currently the forms of distance learning that you can add here are e-learning modules and archived lectures (whether approved by the Federation or not), but we are working to increase these options. You will need to add them as an 'unlisted external meeting' in either the clinical or non-clinical sub-sections of the 'Add self certified entry' section on the CPD diary system. Please note that if you add it under 'Distance learning' in the 'Add self-certified entry' section it will currently be recorded in your diary as personal CPD.