

EXAMINER RETIREMENT FROM CLINICAL PRACTICE

In the first few years following demission from practice, medical practitioners offer a wealth of experience and knowledge which can be invaluable in assessing the next generation of doctors.

Overseas MRCPCH Examiners

MRCPCH examiners based outside of the UK may continue to examine for up to 3 years after fully retiring from clinical practice. An examiner is classed as being clinically active if they regularly see patients in clinical practice, even if this is part time. An academic post only would not be sufficient.

Once an overseas examiner has been retired from clinical practice for 3 years, they would have to demit as an MRCPCH examiner. Overseas examiners who are going to be retiring soon should please email examiners@rcpch.ac.uk to inform the Clinical Assessment team of their retirement date.

UK MRCPCH Examiners

However, in the United Kingdom, examinations are part of the process of accrediting medical practitioners so that they can be given a licence to practise by the GMC. Therefore, the examiners who are responsible for assessing these medical practitioners should be at that same standard, even if they are no longer in active practice.

Requirements

The Academy of Medical Royal Colleges' (AoMRC) guidance for examiners requires that examiners for clinical exams who are retired from medical practice, fully or in part, continue to hold GMC registration with a licence to practice, and therefore continue to meet revalidation requirements.

Holding registration with a licence to practice means examiners for clinical exams who are retired from medical practice must still take part in revalidation, requiring annual appraisal and collection of supporting information relevant to an examiner's scope of practice.

There is also a requirement that an examiner retired from medical practice must undergo refresher training annually, as organised by the Examinations Team at the College. There is now online examiner training which can be used for this purpose.

Examiners will also need to retain links to a designated body, Suitable Person or use the GMC direct route to revalidation.

This means, in summary that:

- Holding GMC registration alone is **not** sufficient in relation to examining;

- They must undergo an appropriate annual appraisal and maintain their status in relation to revalidation, covering the scope of their practice;
- They must fulfil CPD requirements that would cover the scope of the specialty curriculum as it pertains to the exams that they usually cover;
- They must be subject to the usual quality assurance arrangements pertaining to their examination which will confirm their competence as an examiner

Until such time as a doctor has been through the revalidation process, it is expected that an examiner not in practice and not yet revalidated will still need to meet the other requirements above.

Examiners may continue to examine for no more than three years after retirement from active NHS clinical practice, so long as they meet the criteria above.

Examiners Not in NHS practice

Medical practitioners who wish to examine but who work(ed) in the Private sector and are/were not employed by the NHS must still meet all of the requirements noted above.

How to Access Appraisal and Revalidation Support

The RCPCH **cannot** provide examiners with an appraisal, act as their designated body or provide a Suitable Person. However, there are other organisations that examiners can approach to access these services.

Retired / retiring examiners may do one of the following:

- Retain links with a current/previous employer and access appraisal and revalidation services via that employer. (Some Trusts offer this service to former employees for a fee, usually retaining them on an honorary or zero hours contract.)
- Apply for membership of the [Independent Doctors Federation](#), which may accept examiners as members due to their examining role. The IDF is a designated body and offers appraisal, revalidation and Responsible Officer services.
- Apply for membership of an appropriate Faculty, e.g. [Faculty of Medical Leadership and Management](#) (FMLM), which is a designated body and offers appraisal, revalidation and Responsible Officer services.
- [Follow the GMC direct route](#). Examiners will still need to find someone to appraise them using this route but the GMC will act as the designated body.

Support funding for RCPCH Senior Members / Fellows

Senior Members / Fellows who act as examiners on either the MRCPCH or DCH Clinical examinations for the RCPCH may apply for funding towards the annual

costs of appraisal and revalidation services. Currently this is £500 per appraisal year.

The checklist for Revalidation Support for Retired Examiners is below.

Contact

For queries relating to revalidation, including the above support, please contact revalidation@rcpch.ac.uk

For any general enquiries regarding the revalidation process please contact the Education and Professional Development Lead at the RCPCH.

Application Checklist for Revalidation Support
RCPCH Examiner – Retired from Medical Practice

Name:

RCPCH number:

GMC number:

I confirm that I am an RCPCH examiner/senior examiner and fulfil the following criteria to enable me to apply for and receive RCPCH financial support to be used exclusively for the purposes of my annual appraisal and/or revalidation process.

I confirm that I:

- ☐ Am retired from clinical and non-clinical practice and am a senior fellow or senior member of RCPCH
- ☐ am required to hold a license to practice for my RCPCH examiner role
- ☐ have no prescribed connection and no means of connecting to a designated body/suitable person for the purposes of revalidation in my examiner role other than a route outlined to me in appendix 1 below **(please attach a printout of your GMC online account indicating designated body information)**
- ☐ have not breached Examiner conduct or misconduct guidance as monitored by the Exams team
- ☐ meet existing examiner quality measures as monitored by the Exams team
- ☐ hold adequate medical defence insurance in addition to College indemnity for my examiner

Following receipt of RCPCH financial support, I commit to undertake the following:

- ☐ examining at a minimum of 3 consecutive RCPCH (MRCPCH/DCH) clinical exams in the 12 months following approval of support funding (monitored by RCPCH Exams team)
- ☐ completing the annual examiner refresher training in the year following approval of support funding (monitored by RCPCH Exams team)
- ☐ attending one question writing event or submitting one history scenario in the 12 months following approval of support funding (monitored by RCPCH Quality & Standards and Exams teams)

RCPCH disclaimer

Approval for RCPCH revalidation support is considered on a year by year basis and is subject to meeting the above criteria annually.

Reimbursement of expenses incurred related to revalidation, up to a maximum of £500 per year, will be made on receipt of a completed member expenses claim form which includes evidence of e.g. membership/appraisal and revalidation fee paid for the current year to the body acting as your designated body which is providing appraisal and revalidation services.

RCPCH revalidation support does not constitute confirmation of an examiner's fitness to practice, suitability for revalidation or an agreement to continue to support the individual financially in the future.

Signature of applicant:

Date of application:

Please submit your application for RCPCH revalidation support funding via email to

revalidation@rcpch.ac.uk

More [information about Revalidation](#) can be found on the College website

More information is also [available on the AoMRC website](#)

Application for RCPCH Revalidation Support – Appendix 1

Option 1) The Independent Doctors Federation (IDF) may be able to provide suitable appraisal and revalidation services for retired members examining for RCPCH who have no other prescribed connection to a designated body. To do so they would need to become members of the IDF. Information about the IDF appraisal and revalidation service is available at:

<http://www.idf.uk.net/appraisal-revalidation.aspx>

It is the individual doctor's responsibility to apply for membership of the IDF and notify the IDF of their intention to use the appraisal and revalidation service.

The RCPCH cannot guarantee the successful outcome of an application for IDF membership and access to appraisal/revalidation services, as the IDF alone determines this.

Examiners should ensure they demonstrate how they meet the IDF membership criteria in their online application to the IDF at

<http://www.idf.uk.net/become-a-member/>

Annual membership fee - £175 or £250 (London) + one-off £100 application fee if not already a member

Annual appraisal fee - £700

Option 2) A retired member, retired from medical practice but examining for RCPCH, may identify an alternative organisation to provide appraisal and revalidation services for their examining role e.g. a former employing Trust, appropriate Faculty or other body approved to provide appraisal services and/or act as a designated body by the Medical Profession (Responsible Officers) Regulations 2013 (as amended), or to act as a Suitable Person which has agreed to provide these services on a fee-paying basis.

Option 3) A retired member examining for RCPCH may wish to retain revalidation through direct assessment by the GMC – see <http://www.gmc-uk.org/doctors/revalidation/23523.asp> - this route still requires location of an appropriate appraiser to conduct annual appraisals