

# Faculty of Radiologists Professional Competence Scheme



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**CME Forum, London 2012**



Comhairle na nDochtúirí Leighis  
Medical Council

Professional Competence  
Reaching for Improvement



## Background Information

- The Professional Competence Scheme (PCS) is the formal structure provided for under Part 11 of the Medical Practitioners Act 2007 to ensure that all doctors registered and working in Ireland maintain their education, knowledge and skills (competence) at an acceptable level.
- The Faculty of Radiologists PCS is recognised by the Irish Medical Council for the purpose of maintaining professional competence, and is facilitating registrations for Diagnostic Radiologists and Radiation Oncologists.
- The Irish Medical Council is the statutory body with overall responsibility for medical practitioner registration and standards of practice.
- The Faculty of Radiologists (ie CME recorder) works closely with the IMC (registration body).
- Mandatory PCS in Ireland commenced 1 May 2011.

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## Credits Required

- Yearly credits required = 50 plus audit
- 1 credit = 1 hour of educational activity
- Categories:
  - External – 20 credits required
  - Internal – 20 credits required
  - Personal Learning – 5 credits required
  - Research & Teaching – 2 credits desirable
  - Audit – 12 credits required



# Breakdown of Credits

## External (usually events outside of hospital)

- International/ National meetings
- College/Society meetings
- Organised training secondments
- Courses accredited by Training Body
- Medically related advanced degrees
- Online Courses

## Internal (usually events in hospital)

- Multi-disciplinary meetings
- Hospital Study Days
- Grand Rounds
- Clinical clubs
- Morbidity and Mortality Meetings
- Clinical Risk Meetings
- Case Presentations
- Peer Review Groups
- Discrepancy Meetings

## Personal Learning

- Journals
- Journal clubs
- E-Learning

## Research & Teaching

- Accredited Postgraduate Trainer
- Lectures
- Examiner for Postgraduate Training Body
- Publishing articles
- Poster presentation
- National Standards Development
- Question setting

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## Breakdown of Credits Continued

**Note:** A maximum of 6 credits per day can be claimed in the external category for didactic events

### Audit

- Activities related to analysing patient and/or department outcomes
- Activities related to patient satisfaction surveys

Audit is recognized as having three elements:

- (1) Measurement – measuring a specific element of clinical practice
- (2) Comparison – comparing results with the recognised standard (in circumstances where comparison is possible)
- (3) Evaluation – reflecting on outcome of audit and changing practice accordingly

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## Faculty of Radiologists list of meetings automatically approved for external CME credits

### British

- Radiology UK
- BSNR (British Society of Neuroradiology)
- BMUS
- BNMS (British Nuclear Medicine Society)
- British Society of Head & Neck Radiology
- BSIR

### European

- ECR (European Congress of Radiology)
- ESGAR (European Society of Gastrointestinal and Abdominal Radiology)
- CIRSE ESPR (European Society of Paediatric Radiology)
- ESUR
- ESNR (European Society of Neuroradiology)
- ESTI (European Society of Thoracic Imaging)
- EANM (European Association of Nuclear Medicine)
- European Society of Head & Neck Radiology

### North American & other areas

- RSNA (Radiological Society of North America)
- ARRS (American Roentgen Ray Society)
- SGR (Society of Gastrointestinal Radiology)
- SIR (Society of Interventional Radiology)
- SPR (Society of Paediatric Radiology)
- SUR
- ASNR (American Society of Neuroradiology)
- STR (Society of Thoracic Radiology)
- AIUM
- SNM (Society of Nuclear Medicine)
- ICIS (International Cancer Imaging Society)

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## Certificates & IT

- All practitioners registered with the scheme are provided with a certificate.
- Categories with an incomplete number of credits are highlighted.
- The Faculty of Radiologists uses MedHub, an American programme to record credits. Each Postgraduate Medical Training Body has a different programme for this purpose.



## Verification Process

- Once a year, the Faculty carries out a verification on credits obtained by 3 - 5% of registrants, equivalent to internal revenue audit USA, Europe etc.
- This is a supportive exercise aimed to promote confidence in what the doctors are recording, identify shortfalls and provide support to assist doctors in meeting the PCS requirements. All registrants should have evidence of credits claimed, i.e. certificates of attendance for meetings etc.
- If verified with no further corrective action they will not be verified for the next two years.

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## Non-meeting of targets

- If a practitioner has not met the requirements in one year, the Faculty contacts them to let them know they have not meet the targets, and to offer support within available resources to assist the doctor in meeting the annual requirements.
- A doctor who does not meet the requirements in a second (consecutive) year and who does not respond to offers of assistance could be offered a qualitative review of their PCS portfolio. Confirmation of the next step is to be provided by the Medical Council.



## Maintenance of Professional Competence

- Maintenance of professional competence is **mandatory**.
- 5% random audit by Faculty of Radiologists.  
15% random audit by Irish Medical Council.
- There is a legal obligation on all practitioners on the Irish Medical Register to maintain professional competence to remain on the register as practicing physicians.

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