



THURSDAY 17 FEBRUARY 2011

Welcome to the FOM Newsletter.

In this issue...

Revalidation, Responsible Officers and CPD

Who will be your Responsible Officer?

Important information for members about revalidation and the Responsible Officer Regulations

The Medical Profession (Responsible Officers) Regulations were laid before parliament last year and came into force on 1 January 2011. The Responsible Officer (RO) will play a crucial role in the medical revalidation process. Every doctor will need to connect to an RO who will make a statement of positive assurance to the General Medical Council about their fitness to practise.

Most doctors will connect to the RO in the organisation where they are employed. NHS Trusts, the Armed Forces and deaneries are specifically identified as 'designated bodies' in Part 1 of the Regulations. Part 2 lists a variety of other organisations that employ doctors which are also designated, including 'any organisation involved in the treatment of disease, disorder or injury by or under the supervision of a medical practitioner', 'any organisation which carries out diagnostic and screening procedures.....' and government departments or executive agencies.

How the Faculty can help

However some doctors – and this includes many occupational physicians – will not be able to access an RO within their organisation. In such cases the Faculty will be able to help by providing an RO service to occupational physicians who work independently or in smaller or 'non-designated' organisations.

In 2010, foreseeing that many members would face the problem of not having an RO within their employing body, the Faculty worked with two other faculties and Department of Health officials during the time the RO Regulations were being drawn up, with the result that the Faculty is able, and indeed required, to provide the RO function.

The Faculty of Occupational Medicine is described within the regulations as a designated body to provide the RO function to those of its members who do not have a prescribed RO connection through their employer. Some independent OH providers will not fit any of the categories described above and will need to use the Faculty RO. There is also provision in the regulations for a single RO (including the Faculty RO) to provide the function to more than one designated body, which may better suit some smaller organisations.

The Director of Professional Development has been appointed as the Faculty RO for the purpose of piloting revalidation. The Board will make a definitive appointment on completion of the pilot, which is currently underway, when the full extent of the role should be clearer. That will be done before revalidation is implemented, towards the end of 2012.

Advice to all organisations which employ doctors

The Department of Health plans to conduct a self assessment exercise on all designated bodies to measure their readiness as at 31 March 2011. It is suggested that organisations that employ doctors should carefully examine the RO regulations and associated RO guidance and start to plan accordingly.

If you have any further questions, contact Rachel Briggs, Head of Professional Standards, e.mail: rachel.briggs@facocmed.ac.uk

2010 CPD return reminder:

- Don't forget deadline for receipt of 2010 return is 31st March 2011.
- Returns received after that date will incur a £60 late fee.
- Returns posted on 31st March are not acceptable and will also incur a late fee.
- Please send in CPD pages 1 and 6 only – if invited for an audit we will require the full application along with your evidence.
- See website for further information about this:
<http://www.facocmed.ac.uk/cpd/cpdfom.jsp>

•With revalidation coming nearer, it is now even more important that all doctors submit their CPD returns.

With best wishes



Nicky Coates
Chief Executive

