

Revalidation, Enhanced Education and Training and Peer Review

National Optometric Conference Kenilworth, 4 November 2011

*Samantha Peters,
Chief Executive and Registrar
General Optical Council*



Our main purpose

- **Our statutory function is**
“to protect, promote and maintain the health and safety of members of the public.”
- **We see our mission as**
“assuring the health and protection of those who use the services of optometrists and dispensing opticians.”

Our changing landscape

- **‘Trust, Assurance and Safety’**
- **‘Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS’**
- **Command Paper ‘Enabling Excellence’**
- **New Professional Standards Authority**
- **Effectiveness and Efficiency Review (CHRE)**
- **Regulation Review (Law Commission)**
- **Revalidation for non medical professionals**

Our strategic aims



Our core functions

- 1. Approve qualifications leading to registration.**
- 2. Set standards for optical education and training, performance and conduct.**
- 3. Maintain a register of individuals who are qualified and fit to practise, train or carry on business as optometrists and dispensing opticians.**
- 4. Investigate and act where a registrant's fitness to practise, train, or carry on business is impaired.**

What is revalidation

- **What is Revalidation?**

The process by which regulators can assure patients and the public, that registrants remain up to date and 'fit to practise'

- **What does 'fit to practise' mean?**

A registrant who is deemed fit to practise must satisfy the Registrar that they "meet the standards of health, character, knowledge, skill and behaviour that are necessary for them to do their job safely and effectively."

What is the benefit

A benefit for public *and professionals* rather than a burden, so long as it is proportionate and adjusted for risk.

What is our thinking

We believe that with some further enhancements, our continued education and training scheme will provide an effective system to assure patients and the public that Optometrists and Dispensing Opticians remain 'Fit to Practise'.

The background to the scheme

- **(2007) Government expects regulated health professions to have arrangements for revalidation.**
- **(2008) Non Medical Revalidation Working Group published 'Principles of Non Medical Revalidation'.**
- **(2009/10) Extensive consultation in 2009, followed by five stakeholder events in 2010.**
- **(2010) Research into Risks in Optical Professions.**
- **(2011) Government tasked regulators to continue to develop evidence base to inform proposals.**

An overview of the scheme

- **Still 36 points over 3 year cycle (min 6 per year).**
- **Greater range of learning methods (e.g. online).**
- **Points will reflect level of effort and interaction (e.g. peer discussion will carry higher points than lectures or text based distance learning).**
- **Text based distance learning - greater application of knowledge beyond associated text.**
- **Completed across all competency units for professional group; no automatic shortfall period.**

Challenge versus judgement

- **This is not an activity where one individual makes or offers a judgement on the decision making and record keeping of another individual.**
- **It is a constructive discussion that will lead registrants to reflect on their practice and the practice of others.**

Finding your cases

- **Those in clinical practice may choose to use their own genuine cases and patient records however this is not a requirement.**
- **Example case records can be used which will ensure those registrants not in clinical practise can also benefit from these sessions.**

Methods of review

- *Peer review group* –existing method which allows each participant to bring their own case for discussion.
- *Structured case based discussion with up to 8 Peers in the same room* – this method uses example cases and a facilitator who leads the discussion, ensures each individual participates and helps the group make a link to their own practice.
- *Structured case based discussion with up to 8 Peers at different locations* – As above but the group meets online using real-time audio and video services.

Support available

- **Support from DOCET.**
- **Commitment from professional bodies to help registrants meet requirements.**
- **Commitment from body corporates to support employees to access peer discussion groups.**
- **Virtual access to peer discussion groups (internet /video-conferencing) for exceptional circumstances (e.g. remote, overseas).**
- **Website repository and toolkit from us.**

And finally...

Thank you for listening