



RCSI PCS New Requirements

1 May 2025

From 1st May 2025, a new **Maintenance of Professional Competence (MPC) Framework** is being introduced by the Medical Council. The new Framework retains the standards of good professional practice where CPD is a self-directed process, relevant to each doctor's own practice. To incorporate these requirements from the Medical Council, RCSI will deploy a new system solution for you to record your PCS activities. Further information on this new system will be made available in advance of the next PCS year commencing May 2025.

SUMMARY OF THE KEY DIFFERENCES

ENGAGED/NOT ENGAGED IN THE PRACTICE OF MEDICINE: A key feature of the new framework is the introduction of an "**Engaged in the Practice of Medicine**" or "**Not Engaged in the Practice of Medicine**" status, which directly influences how the annual CPD requirements are applied.

RENAMED CPD CATEGORIES: While the core activities have not changed significantly, the names of the CPD categories have been updated for clarity and transparency.

There are now **4 CPD categories**:

- Professional Development Plan
- Practice Review
- Work Based Learning
- Accredited Continuing Education (CE)

MANDATORY PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (PDP): Completing a Professional Development Plan is **now required**, helping to reflect, plan and focus learning objectives that align with personal and professional goals.

PRACTICE REVIEW CATEGORY: The Audit/Quality Improvement category has been expanded to include **Audit, Quality Improvement Projects and Practice Evaluation**. A minimum of 10 credits (10 hours) is required in this category.

DOMAINS OF GOOD PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE: It will be necessary to ensure that you have **recorded all eight Domains of Good Professional Practice** at least once in every three years.

Professional Development Plan (PDP) (5 CPD credits)

It is now a **mandatory** requirement to complete a Professional Development Plan (PDP) and creating a plan attracts 5 CPD credits.

Practice Review (minimum of 10 CPD credits required)

The Practice Review category can include Clinical or Practice Audit or Quality Improvement or Practice Evaluation projects.

- Clinical or Practice Audit** – reviewing care against criteria to improve standards
- Quality Improvement** – implementing interventions for better outcomes
- Practice Evaluation** – assessing your professional performance relating to your stage and scope of practice.

Work-Based Learning (minimum of 15 CPD credits)

This category includes activities previously recorded under the Internal, Personal Learning and Research/Teaching category. It involves surgeons reflection of their clinical and non-clinical work.

Accredited Continuing Education (CE) Activity

(minimum of 20 CPD hours)

This category includes activities previously recorded in the External category. Accredited CPD activity includes attendance at relevant educational conferences, courses, and workshops at local, national, international level, and accredited CPD offered in the workplace.

It is important that CPD activities recorded in this category are accredited in Ireland or in the State where it is delivered.

What does it mean to be Engaged in the Practice of Medicine?

Engagement in the practice of medicine incorporates activities including:

- Involvement in the act of diagnosing, treating, or managing patient illnesses and medical condition
- Provision of medical advice
- Prescription of medications
- Performing of medical procedures
- Development of preventative programmes
- Conducting relevant medical education or research
- Taking any other actions which require medical knowledge and skills

I am Engaged in the Practice of Medicine, what must I do to meet requirements?

- Be enrolled on a Professional Competence Scheme and record your ongoing Professional Competence activities in your ePortfolio for Professional Competence
- Engage in and record a minimum of **50 hours of CPD activity annually**, made up as follows:
 - > Planning CPD – up to **5 CPD credits** per year
 - > Practice Review – minimum **10 CPD credits** per year
 - > Work-based Learning – minimum **15 CPD credits** per year
 - > Accredited Continuing Education – minimum **20 CPD credits** per year
 - > Assign all eight Domains of Good Professional Practice at least once in every 3 years

I am not Engaged in the Practice of Medicine, what must I do to meet requirements?

- Be enrolled on a Professional Competence Scheme and record your ongoing Professional Competence activities in your ePortfolio for Professional Competence
- Engage in and record a minimum of 50 hours of CPD activity annually, made up as follows:
 - > Planning CPD – up to **5 CPD credits** per year
 - > Practice Review/Work-based learning – minimum of **25 CPD credits** per year
 - > Accredited Continuing Education – minimum **20 CPD credits** per year
 - > Assign all eight Domains of Good Professional Practice at least once in every 3 years

FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE NEW FRAMEWORK WILL BE AVAILABLE OVER THE COMING MONTHS BY NEWSLETTER / WEBSITE.

Please contact the PCS office by email pcs@rcsi.ie for further advice