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### Contact

If you would like further information on EPASS or would like to become an EPASS Provider, please do not hesitate to contact us at:

EPASS Team,  
RCGP Scotland,  
25 Queen Street,  
Edinburgh,  
EH2 1JX

Email: [epass@rcgp-scotland.org.uk](mailto:epass@rcgp-scotland.org.uk)

Tel: 0131 260 6814

## WELCOME NOTE

Welcome to the 3rd Edition of the EPASS Newsletter. I am very excited about the new challenge ahead as I take on the role of the new EPASS Clinical Lead. I hope to continue the hard work of Dr Joe Wilton and the EPASS Team in developing this scheme.

Collecting CPD credit points will be one of the main challenges we face in preparation for future Revalidation. The EPASS team are meeting regularly to discuss and develop ways of providing a variety of quality assured learning activities that GPs can rely on for collecting these points.

There are currently 56 providers with a list of EPASS approved events and e-modules which can be accessed from our website [www.rcgp-scotland.org.uk/epassevents](http://www.rcgp-scotland.org.uk/epassevents). We hope to build on these figures to assist GPs in achieving their learning needs.

*Dr Sally Al-Agilly*  
EPASS Clinical Lead

## Quality Assurance measures of EPASS

Assuring that every EPASS accredited event is of a high quality is the fundamental basis of the EPASS scheme, and the EPASS Team endeavours to quality assurance check as many of our Providers as possible each year using one of the quality assurance measures. Therefore, it is imperative that Providers submit completed Event Notification Forms for **every** event accredited with EPASS.

In order to ensure that quality is at the forefront of every event, the EPASS team have three different quality assurance tools for monitoring the quality of events held and providing support and guidance to EPASS providers. These are:

- Quality Assurance Visit - RCGP Scotland has two highly qualified Quality Assurance Assessors, who regularly conduct assessments of our Providers' accredited events and e-modules on a random basis. Once the visit is complete, the assessor provides constructive feedback which is sent to the Provider, including recommendations and support if required.
- Delegate Quality Assurance Questionnaire - As EPASS can only assess a portion of events organised by Providers using a Quality Assurance Assessor; Delegate Quality Assurance Questionnaires are used to gain feedback on Providers who have not been assessed by a visit. The Provider will be requested to ask delegates attending an event to complete short quality assurance questionnaires. The questionnaires are then sent directly, in a sealed envelope, to the EPASS Team for analysis, with feedback and recommendations given to the Provider shortly afterward.
- Online Delegate Quality Assurance Questionnaire - This service was launched in October 2008 and enables delegates to provide **anonymous** feedback, at any time, on an EPASS event or e-module they have participated in. To access the online questionnaires, please visit the EPASS webpage at [www.rcgp-scotland.org.uk/epass](http://www.rcgp-scotland.org.uk/epass)

*N.B. As explained in the License and Accreditation Agreement, Providers must advise delegates of the Online Delegate Quality Assurance Questionnaire at **every** EPASS event.*

## Revalidation - Update

The second version of the **Guide to the Revalidation of General Practitioners** was released on 5 August 2009. The RCGP have also devised a list of Frequent Asked Question's which will be updated on a regular basis. To access these, or for further information on Revalidation, please visit [www.rcgp-scotland.org.uk/revalidation](http://www.rcgp-scotland.org.uk/revalidation)

## New EPASS Providers

We would like to welcome the following providers who have joined EPASS this quarter:

- > South West Glasgow CHCP
- > Division of Developmental Medicine, University of Glasgow

Some EPASS accredited events/e-modules coming soon, September – November 2009

## Hot Topic! CPD Credit System

All medical royal colleges have begun using learning credit systems. Unlike other college schemes, the RCGP credit system is not based on time spent alone, but also on the outcomes of learning (*the precise details of the education credits system will become clearer later in 2009*).

Over a revalidation cycle a GP will be expected to achieve a minimum of 50 learning credits each year and 250 credits in a 5-year cycle, to support a positive revalidation decision. The current proposal is that a GP will claim credits for the time involved in the activity which can include planning and reflection.

Credits are self-assessed by the GP and verified at appraisal. A credit is a unit of professional development that is a product of the impact of a developmental activity multiplied by the time spent. This means that all GPs will be expected to record all their educational activities based on time (the hours involved) and the impact of the education on themselves, their patients or the service in which they work.

The assessment includes impact on:

- Patients (e.g. change in practice, initiating a new drug for the first time)
- The individual (personal development)
- Service (e.g. becoming a training practice, teaching others, implementing a clinic system)
- Others (teaching, training, NHS locally or nationally)

## Featured Provider - Dementia Services Development Centre

*Gaining an insight into our providers and how they use EPASS*



The Dementia Services Development Centre at the University of Stirling exists to provide education and development for health care professionals. Dementia awareness is increasing and research indicates that General Practitioners have not been provided with information or support to enable them to respond to patients and carers who present with dementia related problems. In addition all NHS Boards have been instructed to increase the number of patients who have a formal diagnosis. The DSDC helps in a number of ways, for example by providing SIGN based advice booklets (such as “Ten Things to Consider”), and supporting educational material for practice staff, including information packs to be given to patients.

EPASS accreditation for our dementia related training gives us confidence that what we provide is useful and relevant to current practice. The feedback from delegates and the EPASS Team helps us to be confident that we are not wasting anyone’s time, and that we are value for money. Health Centre staff may undertake some of our distance learning modules, but we can also provide short bespoke training sessions to answer some of the frequently asked questions from GPs. These include:

- How can I make a diagnosis of dementia?
- What advice can I give to a patient and their family at the point of diagnosis?
- What local services is my patient entitled to and how can I point them towards that?
- What can I do in response to disturbing behaviour?
- What do I do about medication?
- How can I respond to dementia related issues in the local nursing or care home without prescribing antipsychotics?
- What are the legal issues, including questions of sharing patient information with the family?
- Who can help me with all of this?

You can find more about EPASS accredited DSDC education on our website [www.dementia.stir.ac.uk](http://www.dementia.stir.ac.uk) or contact [june.andrews@stir.ac.uk](mailto:june.andrews@stir.ac.uk) (Tel: 01506-881717).

**If you have any suggestions for topics for this newsletter, or would like your organisation to be the “Featured Provider”, please contact the EPASS Team at [epass@rcgp-scotland.org.uk](mailto:epass@rcgp-scotland.org.uk) Thank you!**

Date: 02/09/2009  
Title: Child Protection Update  
Provider: Lothian Association of Sessional GPs

Date: 04/09/2009  
Title: Pre-Hospital Paediatric Life Support Course  
Provider: BASICS Education Scotland

Date: 09/09/2009  
Title: Stroke Update for GPs  
Provider: Hypertension Research Centre & Medicines Monitoring Unit

Date: 15/09/2009  
Title: Facing The Future  
Provider: Dementia Services Development Centre

Date: 06/10/2009  
Title: Diploma of Sexual and Reproductive Health Care  
Provider: Sandyford Initiative

Date: 07/10/2009  
Title: Managing Difficult Epilepsy  
Provider: Epilepsy Scotland

Date: 21/10/2009  
Title: Health Inequalities and Deprivation  
Provider: RCGP South East Scotland Faculty

Date: 22/10/2009  
Title: Health and Work in General Practice  
Provider: Royal College of General Practitioners (Scotland)

Date: 05/11/2009  
Title: Chronic Disease and Chronic Pain: a CBT approach  
Provider: 10 Minute CBT

Date: 10/11/2009  
Title: BMJ Masterclass for GPs: General Update (Programme 1)  
Provider: BMJ Group

Date: 25/11/2009  
Title: IM&T Course for Vision-Gold  
Provider: NHS Education for Scotland

Date: N/A - E-modules  
Title: Child Protection; and Equality and Diversity  
Provider: [Doctors.net.uk](http://Doctors.net.uk)

For further details on these events or to discover what other EPASS accredited events are being held, please visit our webpage at [www.rcgp-scotland.org.uk/events](http://www.rcgp-scotland.org.uk/events)