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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:

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Welcome Note

Welcome to this, the first EPASS quarterly newsletter. As you may know, EPASS has been running for nearly 5 years and is still evolving. Rather than sending out occasional update letters, we thought a regular EPASS Newsletter would be more appropriate for EPASS Providers, Scottish GPs and GP Appraisers. We think the newsletter will become even more relevant with the introduction of revalidation in 2010.

We hope you enjoy the newsletter and if you have any suggestions for news items or articles, please do not hesitate to share them with us. *Dr. Joe Wilton, Director of EPASS*

EPASS News

Evaluation of the Scheme

In May 2008, RCGP Scotland commissioned an external evaluation of EPASS to help form and develop the scheme, following its launch nearly 5 years ago in April 2004. The response to this evaluation was excellent, with informative feedback from GPs, GP Appraisers and EPASS Providers. EPASS received many positive comments from respondents such as:

- "High quality education relevant to GPs"
- "EPASS is extremely useful as it ensures a high standard of meeting"
- "Useful for Appraisal"
- "A marker of high quality education"

The EPASS Team welcomed the comments received as learning points for further developing the scheme and we are looking forward to building on existing relationships with our Providers and GPs.

The EPASS team would like to thank all respondents for their useful and informative feedback. If you should have any questions, or would like more details on this evaluation, please contact the EPASS Team.

New Quality Assurance Assessor joins the team

A new Quality Assurance Assessor joined the EPASS team in 2008. Dr Graeme Walker, a locum GP based in Inverness, will join our established assessor, Dr Mary Abercrombie, on quality assurance visits to our EPASS Providers.

This year the quality assurance of EPASS has also been strengthened with the introduction of the Online Quality Assurance Feedback Questionnaire. This is in addition to the QA visits and delegate questionnaires currently in use.

New Online Quality Assurance Feedback Questionnaire

RCGP Scotland have enhanced the quality assurance procedures by launching an Online Quality Assurance Feedback Questionnaire for GPs and other Primary Care Professionals to provide anonymous feedback on an EPASS accredited event/e-module. This will help us ensure that the quality of education, received by completing an EPASS accredited event/ e-module, is of a high standard.

To provide feedback on an EPASS accredited event/e-module, please visit www.rcgp-scotland.org.uk/epass and click on link 'EPASS Feedback Questionnaire'.

EPASS Credit Framework Pilot

Besides awarding accreditation to education providers who want to gain recognition for their commitment to quality education, EPASS also provides assurance to GPs who want to know that any Continuing Professional Development (CPD) activities they undertake are relevant to their needs. RCGP Scotland continues to work with NHS Education for Scotland to ensure that GP Appraisers are aware of EPASS and the significance of an EPASS event/e-module within a doctor's appraisal folder.

In 2008, the EPASS Team, together with Dr Mairi Scott, Director of Professional Development Academy at the University of Dundee, carried out a pilot of a credit framework system within EPASS.

The aim of the pilot was to apply the Scottish Credit and Qualification Framework (SCQF) principles to an event, conference or e-module which is EPASS accredited. Initial training was conducted by the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) and 6 EPASS Providers agreed to participate in the Pilot, which ran for approximately 6 months. The results of the pilot will be evaluated in March 2009 and if you would like to learn more, please contact the EPASS Team.

Some EPASS accredited events/e-modules coming soon in March—May 2009

Hot Topic!

Protected Learning Time (PLT) Schemes

PLT schemes are educational meetings held during working hours where primary care members can come together to engage in CPD without disturbance.

Many GPs and primary care teams now get some or most of their CPD from PLT schemes, through either practice-based or locality meetings. With the imminent onset of revalidation, it will become increasingly important to provide evidence of attendance at these important educational events, or completing online modules, to show improvement in patient care, and to have them quality assured. Quality assurance is where EPASS can help. When a practice or groups of practices become EPASS approved, meetings carry the EPASS kite mark. If you are involved in organising PLT educational events, and are thinking about joining EPASS, please contact the EPASS Team for more details.

Date: 03/03/09
Title: Managing Difficult Epilepsy
Provider: Epilepsy Scotland

Date: 03/03/09
Title: Protected Learning Time Training
Provider: NHS Tayside

Date: 04/03/09
Title: Travellers' Illnesses
Provider: Dr G Martin Educational Meetings

Date: 12/03/09
Title: RCGP Scotland Alcohol and Brief Interventions Training in Primary Care
Provider: RCGP Scotland

Date: 13/03/09
Title: Effective Educational Support for GP Trainees
Provider: NHS Education for Scotland

Date: 20/03/09
Title: The Melting Pot of Care: Providing High Quality of Care for People from Diverse Ethnic Backgrounds
Provider: General Practice and Primary Care, University of Glasgow

Date: 26/03/09
Title: Gynaecology Update
Provider: BMI Ross Hall Hospital

Date: 21/04/09
Title: Evening Medical Update: Oncology
Provider: Royal College of Physicians

Date: 23/04/09
Title: Understanding and Managing Epilepsy
Provider: Royal College of Physicians

Date: 12/05/09
Title: Increasing Effectiveness and Reducing Your Risk
Provider: RCGP Scotland, NE Scotland Faculty

Title: How can a community diabetes nurse practitioner help you?
Provider: BMJ Learning*
*Online provider

If you would like to view more events, please visit our webpage at www.rcgp-scotland.org.uk/events

Featured Provider

Gaining an insight into our providers and how they use EPASS

Kirkcaldy & Levenmouth Community Health Partnership (KLCHP)

KLCHP is one of three CHP's in Fife providing a wide range of community based health services delivered in homes, health centres, clinics and schools.

The KLCHP firmly believes in investing in people and is fully committed to supporting and providing opportunities for staff to address their learning and professional development needs. The KLCHP has been a provider of EPASS events since its inception and regularly holds accredited learning events. The educational topics covered, both clinical and non clinical, are relevant to the learning needs of the participants and the learning activities – whether practice based, uni or multi disciplinary, service or CHP wide – are developed with quality education principles in mind. Events are delivered as workshops or conferences with numbers participating ranging from 10 – 350 individuals. By accrediting events with EPASS, participants are assured that an appropriate high quality standard of education is being provided.

By far the largest event, held on an annual basis is the EPASS accredited KLCHP Annual Conference, attracting 350 delegates from a wide range of stakeholders, including NHS, General Practice, and Partnership Agencies. This year the theme of the Conference focused on the Scottish Government Document 'Better Health, Better Care, Action Plan'. A range of speakers showcasing related topics, included; e-health, managed clinical networks, educational opportunities and multi-agency/multi-disciplinary working.

Each session allowed the delegates an overview of the topic and an opportunity to debate how they would contribute to the future of healthcare provision for patients. The day had a great buzz to it, and the feedback from the speakers and delegates was that everyone was able to take part and contribute to the event.



KLCHP Annual Conference 2008

EPASS Tips

The EPASS Events page (on the RCGP Scotland website) is a good source of finding upcoming events run all over Scotland (www.rcgp-scotland.org.uk/events)

Did you know...?

In addition to helping Providers promote their events, submission of the EPASS Event Notification Form enables us to randomly select events for quality assurance visits.

65% of GPs agree that the EPASS logo indicates that the event will be of high quality and relevant to GPs*.

63% of GPs agree that attending EPASS accredited events adds value to their CPD/Appraisal*.

74% of GP Appraisers agree that there is a need for a national system for quality assuring the delivery of GP education*.

(*source: EPASS Evaluation 2008).

If you have any suggestions for topics or items for this newsletter, please contact the EPASS Team at epass@rcgp-scotland.org.uk Thank you!