



## WELCOME NOTE

Welcome to the fourth edition of the EPASS Newsletter - the last one for 2009!

With the new RCGP CPD Credit Scheme commencing soon, accreditation has become even more important in order to ensure the delivery of high quality educational activities. Feedback from providers, assessors and advisory panel has been invaluable in planning future changes. The EPASS team is set to take on the new challenges ahead and prepare for future changes.

*The EPASS Team would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy Christmas and all the best for 2010!!*

*Dr Sally Al-Agilly  
EPASS Clinical Lead*

## "EPASS Providers - Sharing Best Practice" Event - Overview

Since EPASS was introduced in April 2004, RCGP Scotland has organised an annual event for all EPASS providers called "EPASS Providers - Sharing Best Practice".

This year, the "Sharing Best Practice" event was held on 19 November 2009 at the Tron Theatre in Glasgow. The aims of the event were to provide an opportunity for all EPASS providers to meet and share their experiences of the EPASS scheme and of organising high quality educational activities for GPs and Primary Care Professionals; to develop their understanding of EPASS; to learn about new developments affecting GP education; and to have an input into how EPASS should evolve in line with these developments. The event was open to all EPASS providers past and present, including Accreditors, nominated GPs and event administrators and was also attended by the EPASS administration Team, EPASS Clinical Lead and EPASS Quality Assurance Assessors.

The day commenced with a buffet lunch followed by a Welcome and Introduction by Laura Kelleher, EPASS Coordinator. Leanne Brown then presented an overview of the current quality assurance methods, including the new online delegate quality assurance questionnaire. The group heard the experiences of providers who have recently been quality assured, as well as the experiences of the Quality Assurance Assessors. Following this, Dr Sally Al-Agilly, EPASS Clinical Lead, provided an overview of the evidence GPs will be expected to collect for Revalidation and subsequently explained the new RCGP CPD Credits system. Laura Kelleher then discussed some of the future developments within EPASS including an overview of some changes that have already been made following the EPASS evaluation last year. Some of the key forthcoming developments for the scheme include: A new **CPD Credits record** on the reverse of the certificate of attendance (see article on next page); increasing the notification period of events from two weeks to **six weeks notice** to support our Quality Assurance measures; clearer guidelines for Providers around **sponsorship and promotional advertising at events**; a **Quality Criteria** document to provide a step by step guide of EPASS requirements; a link from the NHS Education for Scotland (NES) **SOAR website** to the EPASS Events diary to encourage users to view EPASS Events; and regular GP learning needs reports from NES. It is anticipated that all these developments will assist educational providers with their event planning, with the advertising of their educational activities, to help ensure that events are of a high quality and relevant to GP's educational needs and to meet the requirements of the CPD Credits System.

The event was well received by all and we would like to thank everyone for their useful contributions. From feedback received, delegates most enjoyed having the opportunity to network with other providers, the update on the CPD Credits System, having the opportunity to contribute to the development of EPASS and the informality of the event.

## New EPASS Providers

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

> Haymarket Medical Group Ltd

> NHS National Services Scotland

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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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Tel: 0131 2606814

Some EPASS accredited events/e-modules coming soon, December 2009 to February 2010

Date: 03/12/2009

Title: Workingwith Drug Users Part 1  
Provider: Primary Care Facilitator Team

Date: 03/12/2009

Title: Cholecystectomy Pathway & MRI Direct Access  
Provider: Professional Development Academy

Date: 03/12/2009

Title: Legislation for Vulnerable Adults  
Provider: South West Glasgow CHCP

Date: 09/12/2009

Title: Dizziness  
Provider: Dr G Martin Educational Meetings

Date: 16/12/2009

Title: Cardiology Fellowship for GPs  
Provider: NHS Dumfries and Galloway

Date: 07/01/2010

Title: Minor Surgery in General Practice  
Provider: Cuschieri Skills Centre

Date: 15/01/2010

Title: Immediate Medical Care Part 1  
Provider: BASICS Education Scotland

Date: 27/01/2010

Title: Cardiology Fellowship for GPs  
Provider: NHS Education for Scotland

Date: 28/01/2010

Title: Advanced Palliative Care for General Practitioners  
Provider: Roxburghe House

Date: 03/02/2010

Title: MBCHB Internal Examiner Training  
Provider: General Practice and Primary Care, University of Glasgow

Date: 23/02/2010

Title: Managing Difficult Epilepsy  
Provider: Epilepsy Scotland

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)

## Hot Topic! CPD Credits - New CPD Credits Record for Delegate Certificate of Attendance

As explained in the Autumn issue of the EPASS Newsletter, the RCGP is introducing a CPD Credits System to support Revalidation for GPs. Over a five year Revalidation Cycle, GPs will be expected to gain 250 CPD Credits - 50 per year.

Each full hour of learning activity undertaken, including planning and reflection, will count as one credit. There is then the opportunity for GPs to gain further Credits by demonstrating the Impact the learning activity has had on either patients, service, themselves or others. If they can illustrate that there has been an Impact following completing an educational activity (e.g. conducting an audit and changing prescriptions to the benefit of patients following attendance at an event) then they can multiply the Credits (hours) by a factor of two. These Credits are self assessed by the GP and verified at the appraisal process each year.

To support this requirement for GPs to self assess and collect the hours of Learning Activities they undertake and to record the Impact of these activities, the EPASS Team has devised a CPD Credits Record, which will be printed on the reverse of the Delegate's Certificate of Attendance, in place of the existing Record of Learning Log. The new CPD Credits Record allow participants of an EPASS activity: to record their objectives for completing the activity; to breakdown the number of hours spent on the activity (including time spent on planning and reflection); and to record the Impact of the learning activity, ready for their annual appraisal.

The new CPD Credits Record will be disseminated to all EPASS Providers shortly.

## Featured Provider - NHS Education for Scotland

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



NHS Education for Scotland has a remit within Scotland for providing education, training and lifelong learning for all NHS healthcare staff. It covers all health professions including doctors, nurses, dentists and Allied Health Professionals (AHP). The GP CPD team based in the Deanery office in Aberdeen contributes to this process by providing educational opportunities for doctors before and after completion of their training. Around half of all medical trainees become GPs.

The CPD provision run from Aberdeen comprises a range of half and whole day workshops, 2 or 3 session short courses, and "Scholarship" programmes which usually have six sessions plus clinical attachments. Many have a multi-professional primary care focus. A wide range of topics is on offer. These are identified from needs analysis exercises, from previous evaluation feedback, and from individual approaches. Typical sessions on the Aberdeen CPD programme would be "Training for Vision" IM&T courses, child health updates, genetics awareness events, educational taster courses and joint injection workshops etc. Scholarship programmes are structured around clinical topics like Cardiology and Diabetes and are aimed primarily at GPs.

Having the facility to EPASS approve our courses gives a quality kite mark to complement out internal quality assurance processes and gives GPs a clear indication that this education is of an appropriate standard. It has added value in being external to our organisation and being part of the wider RCGP which overarches all GP training and education.

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!