Q&A: Practising in more than one specialty

If I change my specialty or field of practice mid-way through a revalidation cycle, will this affect my ability to revalidate?

Your licence to practise and the process of revalidation are generic and do not restrict you to working in a particular specialty or field of practice. Revalidation is not about demonstrating that you are up to date in a specific field, but that you are up to date and fit to practise in your current field(s) across your current scope of work. It is expected that some doctors may change specialties within the five years, and revalidation will not be affected by this – the types of information will remain the same, but the detail of the supporting information will differ. You will need to discuss your practice changes at appraisal and start collecting supporting information in relation to your new area of practice.

How should I demonstrate that my skills and knowledge are up to date in my specialty?

Your College or Faculty should advise you on the standards required for your specialty, and you should follow the Specialty Guidance on supporting information for revalidation for your specialty (or specialties) in order to show that you are keeping up to date in your field(s) for the purposes of revalidation. Please refer to the relevant specialty guidance documents at: http://www.aomrc.org.uk/revalidation/speciality-frameworks-and-speciality-guidance.html GPs should use the RCGP Guide to the Revalidation of General Practitioners as a first point resource (available from http://www.rcgp.org.uk/revalidation-and-cpd.aspx).

Your employer may also have additional requirements as part of your employment contract, but these are not directly part of revalidation and will be managed as part of normal HR processes.