MAP – Guidance for Criterion 3: Learning Event Analysis (LEA)

Assessors find this a very interesting section to mark because it tells them so much about the candidate. The ability to take a long hard look at notable things which have happened in our professional lives, how we learn from them, and how we make changes is incredibly important.

It is essential that the event involved the candidate. It is not enough to have sat in a meeting about the event, unless you are directly involved in suggesting and implementing change. It might be one which affected your own practice or your area of responsibility such as the staff, trainees or salaried doctors. If you are a locum or a salaried doctor it is more likely that it will need to be about your own clinical practice unless you played a major role in the plan which is put into place. LEA is an invaluable tool for looking at the process of what happened and improving quality of care, it is not about looking for scapegoats.

The first step is to find out what actually happened by talking to everyone involved. Then look at what went wrong or right and when the key issues arose. Finally, plan to put things right or plan how to embed good practice so it will become easily replicable.

The changes made because of the event must have occurred within five years at the date you submit this criterion for assessment.

If possible tell us how these changes have worked since you put a plan into place. There are seven headings in the portfolio proforma, use them. They ask what has changed in the practice but also what has changed in your personal practice because of the event.

Learning events may not have had a serious outcome but highlight issues that could be handled with greater clinical effectiveness and patient safety, and from which lessons could be learnt. If a doctor is involved in a serious incident (i.e. one with patient safety concerns), it should be included as a learning event in the portfolio.

All events which fall under the GMC definition of Significant Events are included in the requirements for revalidation.