

To: all Responsible Officers in Scotland

26 March 2020

Dear Colleague,

CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19): NATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR MEDICAL APPRAISAL AND REVALIDATION FOR ALL RESPONSIBLE OFFICERS IN SCOTLAND

1. In view of the continuing situation I am writing as the higher level Responsible Officer in Scotland to give guidance on the arrangement for medical appraisal and revalidation for all RO's in Scotland during this pandemic.

MEDICAL APPRAISAL

2. As outlined in DL(2020) 5 all non urgent business should be postponed in order to increase capacity in our workforce. This includes medical appraisal. This is to increase capacity in our workforce by allowing appraisers and appraisees to focus on clinical practice. This means that all scheduled appraisals should be cancelled from the date of this letter until further notice. No further appraisals should be scheduled unless there are exceptional circumstances agreed locally.

3. Oversight of professional concerns must continue, but as the situation escalates, priority should be given to those concerns that are assessed as high risk. This might mean that in exceptional circumstances an appraisal might be required.

REVALIDATION DECISIONS

4. The GMC has now issued guidance that doctors who are due to revalidate before the end of September 2020 will have their revalidation date deferred for one year. This will be kept under review by the GMC. This is to allow doctors time to complete the requisite number of appraisal and to avoid RO's having to make revalidation decisions during the crisis.

5. The GMC are in the process of making changes to their systems to ensure that notifications about revalidation dates are not issued. They will continue to send notifications when doctors change DB's in order that RO's can keep track of prescribed connections.

MEDICAL APPRAISAL AND REVALIDATION QUALITY ASSURANCE (MARQA)

6. In line with stopping all non urgent business, we have decided to cancel the 2019/2020 annual review of medical appraisal and revalidation rates carried out by NHS Education for Scotland (NES).

TRAINING AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

7. RO's should consider whether it is necessary for doctors to undertake CPD or other training requirements not directly relevant to the pandemic.

ACTION

8. I ask you to cascade this guidance to doctors, appraisal leads, appraisers and managers.

Yours sincerely



Catherine Calderwood
Chief Medical Officer