

# **Society for Cardiothoracic Surgery in Great Britain & Ireland**

## **Revalidation Working Group**

### **Terms of Reference**

#### **Purpose**

This purpose of this working group is to develop the approach of the Society for Cardiothoracic Surgery in Great Britain & Ireland to the revalidation of Cardiothoracic Surgeons.

#### **Background**

Liam Donaldson's report "Good Doctors, Safer Patients" and the subsequent white paper "Trust, Assurance and Safety" confirmed a system of revalidation for doctors which would include an element of specialist recertification for those doctors on the specialist register. Revalidation will be the result of successful recertification and relicensure processes. Recertification will be affirmation of a doctor's fitness to practice in his/her chosen specialty, whilst relicensure will be the result of cumulative appraisal performed in employing Trusts and will be largely generic. The GMC has overall responsibility for revalidation and has specific responsibility for relicensure, whereas the Medical Royal Colleges have responsibility for carrying out the recertification process and issuing a positive statement of assurance to the GMC. At this stage, the role of the Specialty Associations is to develop the criteria for recertification in their specialty.

The criteria for recertification will require evidence of

- good professional standing
- life-long learning and self assessment
- continuing to meet the required standard of cognitive expertise relating to their practice
- performance in practice

The four surgical colleges have established a Recertification Project Board. This is a pan-specialty group which has been established to recommend the methods by which surgeons will be recertified. The SCTS is represented on this board and this working group will inform the advice given to it by the representative.

The Recertification Project Board has established sub-groups to consider three aspects of the process; these are:

- Assessment
- Outcomes and Peer Review.
- CPD

The SCTS also has membership of these subgroups.

## **Function**

The working group will consider the following areas:

- **Define “areas of practice”**

My own view is that surgeons should be assessed in their own area of practice but we should not allow these to be defined too narrowly – I would suggest that the areas of practice in Cardiothoracic Surgery are:

- Adult Cardiac Surgery
- Congenital Cardiac Surgery
- Thoracic Surgery

- **Activity and outcomes**

- What data should be collected in each specialty group?
- What will our outcome measures be?

- **CPD**

- Specialty specific requirements for CPD in line with the document “Continuing Professional Development: A new direction for the College”

- **Annual appraisals**

- The group should consider what specialty specific data should be discussed in an individual’s appraisal.

- **Multi-source Feedback**

- **Feasibility of a test of knowledge**

- **Role of peer review of outcomes of a defined case range**

It is certain that the working sub-groups will throw up other issues that will need discussion by the SCTS – should this be by the recertification group or by the executive.

## **Personnel**

SA Livesey – Revalidation Lead for SCTS

Leslie Hamilton – President & member of Assessment sub-group

Ben Bridgewater – member of outcomes sub-group

John Pepper – member of CPD sub-group

Pala Rajesh - Thoracic Surgeon

David Barron - Congenital Surgeon

Graham Cooper – Secretary of SCTS

Sir Donald Irvine

Angela Coulter

## Lifespan of Group

It is envisaged that the group will meet on an ad hoc basis to discuss the issues arising around revalidation. Much of the work will be done following electronic discussion but I would envisage meeting twice a year. The group will need to exist until the revalidation process is well underway, i.e., 2010 – 2011.

## Bibliography

- Good doctors, safer patients: Proposals to strengthen the system to assure and improve the performance of doctors and to protect the safety of patients.  
[www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH\\_4137232](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_4137232)
- Trust, assurance and safety: the regulation of health professionals.  
[www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH\\_065946](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_065946)
- **Continuing Professional Development: A new direction for the College**  
<http://www.rcseng.ac.uk/standards/docsandpdfs/CPD%20A%20new%20direction%20for%20the%20college.pdf/>

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