

British Medical Association
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To: LMC Secretaries

Chairman of Council

Our Ref: HM/ag

24 April 2009

Dear Colleague,

At yesterday's GPC meeting (23 April) there were reports that some medical directors in PCTs had written to GPs informing them that revalidation with a revised system of appraisal would be introduced early in 2010 and that GPs should be preparing for this now, in accordance with the proposals on revalidation recently issued by the Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP).

LMCs and GPs should be aware that no decision has yet been made on a date for the introduction of revalidation and that the earliest this could commence would be in 2011. Moreover, the RCGP's proposals are just that – proposals – and a decision will not be made on the final form of revalidation, including a revised system of appraisal, until after a full assessment of pilot schemes, which are not due to be completed until the second half of 2010.

LMCs and GPs should be assured that they will be given full details of the agreed revalidation arrangements in plenty of time to make the necessary changes, before the introduction of revalidation.

The BMA, together with the GMC, the departments of health and the colleges are working on joint communication arrangements to ensure that you receive consistent and timely information about the introduction of revalidation and we hope to be producing a series of frequently asked questions very shortly.

In the meantime, please refer to the GMC website for the most recent notification of the activities of the UK Revalidation Programme Board. Minutes of the meetings of the Programme Board are published on the GMC website (http://www.gmc-uk.org/doctors/licensing/revalidation_board/index.asp).

Up to date information about revalidation can be found on the BMA website (www.bma.org.uk/employmentandcontracts/doctors_performance/professional_regulation/index.jsp).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'Hamish Meldrum'. The signature is written in a cursive style and extends to the right with a long, thin stroke.

Dr Hamish Meldrum
Chairman of Council, BMA

Chief Executive/Secretary: Tony Bourne

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