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What is recertification and why is it important?

If you hold the FSRH Diploma, we require you to recertify your qualification every five years. This enables you to:

- demonstrate the learning outcomes achieved from your Diploma qualification have been maintained
- show you have the knowledge, skills, attitudes and behaviour needed to provide safe and effective sexual and reproductive health care (SRH)
- meet the requirements of commissioners/employers, who often require clinicians to have certified qualifications
- showcase your competence and status as an SRH leader with a nationally recognised qualification
- provide evidence to support your appraisals and revalidation.

Failure to recertify should be disclosed to your commissioner/employer if it is their requirement that the qualification is held.

Relevant topic areas for Diploma recertification

To recertify, you must demonstrate that you are still able to achieve the FSRH Diploma learning outcomes.

These include:

- Anatomy and physiology of male and female reproductive systems
- Principles of SRH delivery – confidentiality and the law
- Contraception methods – hormonal, intra-uterine, post-coital, barrier, emergency, fertility awareness methods and surgical
- Managing fertility/infertility
- Pregnancy – planned/unplanned
- Genitourinary medicine – sexually transmitted infections, HIV and AIDS
- Delivering SRH consultations – equality, diversity, non-judgemental attitude
- Psychosexual difficulties – relationship issues and gender identity
- Sexual assault
- National screening/vaccination programmes relevant to SRH (e.g. cervical cytology, chlamydia, HPV, rubella)
- Working with young people.

You can view a full list of Diploma learning outcomes at www.fsrh.org/diplomaoutcomes
How do I recertify?

When should I recertify?
You should apply for recertification no more than six months before your recertification date, and no later than six months afterwards.

You can find your recertification date in ‘My FSRH’ under ‘My completed qualifications’. It is also on your initial certificate and on any recertification communications that you may have received.

We will also remind you via email six and three months before you are due to recertify.

It is important that you keep your contact details up-to-date. You do this by logging into MyFSRH and clicking on ‘Communication preferences’.

Your membership ID
To apply for recertification, you will need your membership ID number.

You can find this by logging onto My FSRH via the top-right orange log in button on the FSRH website. It is also on your initial certificate or your last recertification confirmation letter.

How do I recertify?
To recertify your Diploma, you need to:

• be registered with a FSRH recognised regulatory body (currently GMC or NMC)

• have achieved 10 CPD credits over a 5-year period
  
  o We recommend that you aim to achieve 2 credits each year, covering a range of topics that relate to the FSRH Diploma learning outcomes.

• re-confirm you have read and abide by our Personal Beliefs Guidance.

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How do I apply?

Recertifying your Diploma qualification is very straightforward. Simply visit www.fsrh.org/diplomarecert and complete the online form where you will confirm you have achieved the required credits.

Audit process

You are not required to provide a record or evidence of your CPD as part of your application. However, the FSRH General Training Committee audits a percentage of applications and you may be asked for this. Please allow 10 working days for us to process audited applicants, after which your application will either be processed or referred back with details of any shortfall.

We recommend that you keep your CPD records for a minimum of 3 months, once we have confirmed your recertification.

Personal beliefs guidance

When you recertify, you will need to confirm you have read the six principles of care as outlined in the “Guidance for those undertaking or recertifying FSRH qualifications whose personal beliefs conflict with the provision of abortion or any method of contraception” and agree to abide by them in practice.

You can find this at https://www.fsrh.org/documents/guidance-for-those-undertaking-or-recertifying-fsrh/.
Is there a charge to recertify?

There is no extra charge to recertify as this is a benefit included in your annual membership fee. However, you must have paid your membership fee continuously for the five years leading up to recertifying.

If you have not, and wish to recertify, please contact our membership team at info@fsrh.org or 020 7724 5534 to discuss your options.

Your membership fees will need to be backdated – at current subscription levels (our 2019 diplomate fee is £104 per year).

What happens if I fail to recertify in time?

If you fail to recertify when you are due, you will be required to provide evidence of additional CPD.

Up to 6 months after the recertification date

Our records will show that you still hold our FSRH Diploma qualification, but that it has not been recertified.

If a prospective employer contacts us, this is the information we will share.

More than 6 months after the required recertification date

You will need to take an additional 5 CPD credits to cover this time lapse. This means you will require a total of 15 CPD credits. This will need to cover the last 5 years from your late application date.

This can only be undertaken once in a Diplomate’s career. If this happens a second time, you will need to re-take the entire Diploma qualification again.

If you would like to apply for an extension on your recertification date, please email edassistant@fsrh.org with the reasons for your request.

10 years plus since the award or recertification of your FSRH Diploma qualification

You will be expected to undertake the full FSRH Diploma training programme. Our General Training Committee is unable to offer exemptions and extensions to this requirement.
CPD – our guiding principles

We believe that:

• You are responsible for your own learning and for recording CPD that you consider has educational value, including how it impacts on your practice.

• Your CPD focus should be on outcomes or outputs of your learning, not simply the amount of time spent on an activity.

• CPD should encourage and support specific changes in practice and development and be relevant to your practice.

• It is your responsibility to undertake and record a range and balance of activities to support the needs of your practice, as well as your own development.

• CPD should be recognised as a contractual commitment by employers and contractors and should be adequately resourced in terms of time, finance and staff levels.

• We support evidencing competences and development through the recertification of several of our qualifications to show that you are safe and current in your practice.

Why is CPD important?

What is CPD?

Lifelong learning is key to supporting healthcare professionals to maintain and improve knowledge, skills, attitudes and behaviours across all areas of their professional practice.

CPD refers to any formal or informal learning activities outside of undergraduate education or postgraduate training.

Any activity which provides educational benefit to you is eligible for CPD. This includes a wide range of activities including gaining qualifications, attending courses, conferences, to reviewing journal articles.

You should be able to demonstrate the value of the learning activities and demonstrate how this has supported your development.

Doctors and nurses are required to demonstrate CPD in their appraisals, for recertification of qualifications and revalidation with their regulatory organisations.

General guidance

• The Academy of Medical Royal Colleges (AoMRC) provide useful core principles for your CPD.

• Doctors can view further CPD guidance at the GMC website.
• Nurses can view CPD guidance at the NMC website

**CPD credits**

As a guide, 1 hour of learning equates to 1 CPD credit.

We recommend that you collect and record evidence to support your record of CPD activities within a structured portfolio such as an online CPD diary (if available) or Excel spreadsheet and folder (see example spreadsheet).

We suggest that you upload and collate your CPD activities and reflections while current.

**Useful CPD resources**

We offer a range of activities and resources to support your CPD including:

- Events
- Standards & Guidance
- Qualifications
- Webinars
- BMJ SRH Journal

**Reflection**

It is important to reflect on what you have learnt from your CPD activities and record whether your CPD has had any impact (or is expected to have any impact) on your performance and practice.

The AoMRC provide guidance on reflective practice.

You can also find useful reflection templates on our FSRH website.

**Contact us**

If you have any questions or would like to discuss recertification of your Diploma with us, you can contact us below.

Email: education@fsrh.org

Call: 020 3198 3180 / 020 7724 5620

www.fsrh.org