FSRH Diploma recertification requirements

How to apply for recertification of the FSRH Diploma

To apply for recertification you should complete and return the application for recertification of the FSRH Diploma form to the FSRH not more than 6 months before and not later than 6 weeks after the recertification date (if you have special circumstances, please see below). If this form is not submitted within 6 months of the due date your primary qualification may be deemed to have lapsed i.e. would not be current. (NB: All FSRH trainers must have current qualifications in order to be recognised as trainers.)

Purpose of recertification

To recertify, the FSRH requires you to collect not less than 10 CPD credits of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) activity since the award of your FSRH Diploma or last recertification. This is required to maintain and improve standards of medical practice through the development of knowledge, skills, attitude and behaviour.

As CPD is based on self-assessment, clinicians are advised to be involved and engaged in various development activities as suggested under the areas of Good Medical Practice recommended by the GMC.

Recertification is required every 5 years.

Categories of CPD activity

1 CPD credit is equal to 1 hour of Continuing Professional Development.

The FSRH requires a minimum of 10 credits CPD activity relevant to Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) over the 5 year recertification cycle, with at least 2.5 CPD credits undertaken during the 24 month period prior to the date of recertification.

These 10 CPD credits can be accumulated under 2 sections as follows:

Section 1

A minimum of 5 CPD credits gained from attendance at:

- Courses in core topics directly related to Sexual and Reproductive Health
- Courses relating to consultation skills.

Evidence: certificate of attendance, programme of meeting and brief reflection on how this will influence your future practice.
Section 2

A maximum of 5 CPD credits may be acquired for other activities such as:

- Small group teaching and discussion in SRH courses held informally;
  Evidence: date and brief description of the sessions and a brief reflection on how this will influence your future practice
- Peer review of personal clinical practice in the areas of SRH;
  Evidence: date and name of observer/person being observed and brief outline of what you learned from this, either as an observer or from being observed
- Carrying out research or audit projects in the area of SRH;
  Evidence: date, summary of audit/research. Brief description of your role in audit/research: 1 CPD credit
- Activities in respect of commissioning and implementing SRH services;
  Evidence: brief description of activity and a brief reflection on how this will influence your future practice
- Completion of Faculty distance learning programmes (e.g. e-SRH 1 CPD point for 2 sessions completed)
  Evidence: certificate print out from eSRH and a brief reflection on how this will influence your future practice
- Reading CEU guidance and completing MCQs. Reading: 1 CPD credit and completion of self-assessment questions: 1 CPD credit.
  Evidence of reading: date read and brief reflection on how this will influence your future practice. Evidence of questions: mark sheet, date completed and brief reflection on how this will influence your future practice

To register for access to the e-SRH modules, which are hosted by e-Learning for Healthcare, please go to: http://www.e-lfh.org.uk/projects/sexual-and-reproductive-healthcare/

Topics relevant to SRH CPD activity

- Audit – relevant to sexual and reproductive health – (SRH).
- Cancer Screening - cervix, ovary, breast, bowel, prostate, testes, colposcopy.
- Contraception - all methods, reversible and irreversible, new methods.
- Critical reading skills.
- Endocrinology - associated with SRH. Diabetes.
- Epidemiology -related to SRH, screening and SRH statistics, trends in SRH, world population issues.
- Ethical issues -associated with SRH.
- Failed pregnancy - abortion, miscarriage, ectopic.
- Forensic gynaecology.
- Genitourinary medicine -sexually transmitted infections, HIV, AIDS.
- Incontinence.
- Infertility/Subfertility -male and female.
- Information technology - associated with sexual health (SH).
- Legal issues - associated with SRH, medical negligence, consent.
- Medical/surgical problems - impact on sexual health and contraception.
- Medical gynaecology - menorrhagia, dysmenorrhoea, dyspareunia, endometriosis, PCOS, amenorrhoea, pelvic pain.
- Menopause -climacteric, HRT, PMB, osteoporosis, alternative methods.
- Post natal depression.
- Pre-conceptual care - prenatal diagnosis.
- Pre-menstrual Syndrome.
- Psychosexual issues -relationship issues, gender identity.
- Special needs groups - learning and physical disabilities, homeless, travellers, drug abusers, ethnic and religious issues, the young and the perimenopausal.
- World-wide contraception, SRH.

**Evidence of CPD activity**

When applying for recertification, evidence of CPD activity is not always required. However, the General Training Committee will audit 10% of all applications and reserves the right to ask for supporting documentation for all activity.

Clinicians are also required to keep this documentation for their annual appraisals leading to the 5-yearly GMC Revalidation or 3 yearly NMC registration renewal.

**Failure to recertify at 5 yearly intervals when due**

- SIX WEEKS AFTER the recertification date the FSRH Diploma qualification will still be held by the doctor but FSRH records will show that the qualification is not CPD maintained and currently recertified. If prospective employers contact the FSRH to check current qualification this will be the information given.

- If you apply to recertify the qualification MORE THAN SIX WEEKS after the normal recertification date - an additional requirement of 5 credits of CPD must be gained to cover the extended time lapse. The total CPD requirement will therefore be 15 CPD credits. This can only be undertaken once in a Diplomate's career and a 2nd late application will entail undertaking the full FSRH Diploma training programme.

- 10 years plus since FSRH Diploma qualification awarded or last FSRH Diploma recertification date. The applicant will be expected to undertake the full FSRH Diploma training programme.

**Special circumstances**

All clinicians who hold a licence to practice should remain up to date with the CPD requirements set out by their Medical Royal College or Faculty or NMC. Clinicians working less than full time have an equal obligation to provide high quality patient care as do those working full time, and thus should maintain the same commitment to their CPD. Colleges and Faculties, as well as employers, should be as flexible as possible in enabling this commitment to be met for all doctors.

In addition, the local arrangements to facilitate CPD should reflect current NHS guidance on equality and diversity in the workplace.

In some circumstances participation in CPD may be difficult or impossible for periods of time. The following are some of the circumstances to be considered, and some of the ways in which these may be addressed:

- **A rolling 5-year programme**
  A shortfall in CPD activity at the end of a fixed 5-year cycle is difficult to make up. However, the use of a rolling cycle allows the average amount of activity to be maintained over five years if a shortfall occurs.

- **Clinicians undergoing remediation**
  CPD will be an essential part of the remediation process.

- **Clinicians who are suspended**
  This is likely to be rare, and the period of suspension before return to work, or a decision on re-training or remediation should be short. Where necessary it should be possible to make up any lost CPD credits over a 5-year cycle.

- **Sick-leave, Maternity Leave or other Career Breaks**
Any deficit in CPD activity should be made up over the remainder of the 5-year cycle. This may be achieved either prospectively (where possible) retrospectively after return to clinical work, or a combination. Where the absence is for more than a year, advice from the FSRH should be sought.

- **Clinicians working in isolated environments outside the UK**
  In some circumstances the type of CPD activity available may not conform to the quality standards set by the FSRH. The clinician should self-accredit as much CPD as appears justifiable in terms of the learning achieved. Any shortfall should be made up on return to the UK. Periods of absence of more than one year may require specific CPD as agreed with the clinician's appraiser, or FSRH.

**Failure to pay annual subscription fee when due**

Please ensure your annual subscription fee has been paid before applying for recertification of the FSRH Diploma.

**Application for Diplomate re-admittance.** Payment of the outstanding back years’ subscriptions will be required, at the current Diplomate rate, up to a cap of 5 years.