

2 July 2020

New recertification programme update

As you will be aware, the Dental Council advised practitioners in early May that the requirements of the [current recertification programmes have been waived for 12 months](#). This means practitioners have until **31 December 2021** to meet CPD hours and peer contacts required under the current recertification programme.

Deferred start dates for new recertification programme

The Council has also deferred **the start of the new recertification programme** by 12 months.

Deferring the start of the new recertification programme by 12 months means:

- For dentists and dental specialists - you will need to find a professional peer and advise the Council by **1 October 2021**.
- For oral health therapists, dental hygienists, dental therapists, dental technicians, and clinical dental technicians - you will need to find a professional peer and advise the Council by **1 April 2022**.

Eye health

At its meeting in March 2020 the Council further reflected on practitioners' views that continue to be raised about the eye health requirements in the new programme. Based on this feedback and further discussions with eye specialist professional groups, the Council has reconsidered this requirement and decided not to include eye health declarations in the recertification programme at this time.

Instead, we will introduce an additional question in the annual practising certificate (APC) online application asking practitioners whether they have had an eye test in the past 2 years. This question has been included to raise awareness amongst practitioners about the importance of eye health and to give the Council a view of the extent to which practitioners are complying with voluntary guidelines that all practitioners should have an eye test every 2 years.

Feedback from focus groups

In early March 2020 we hosted a second round of practitioner and stakeholder focus groups, following those held in November 2019.

The March focus groups addressed some of the practicalities of the new recertification programme and tested guidance, templates, examples, and a video on choosing a professional peer. You can read a [summary of the feedback](#) we received from the practitioners and stakeholder focus groups and a copy of the [background reading materials](#) that were discussed (please note these materials do not reflect the revised start dates and the decision about eye health outlined above).

Questions?

We have also prepared a series of [questions and answers](#) based on email inquiries we have received from practitioners. We will continue to update this on our website as further questions are received.

Please do not hesitate to [contact us](#) if you have any questions about recertification.

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