

Continuing Fitness to Practise Professional Liaison Group
15 January 2008

Definitions

Executive summary and recommendations

Introduction

This paper outlines definitions put forward for revalidation and other terms relevant to the group's work, including definitions put forward at the meeting on 13 November 2007.

This paper is intended for reference as the group begins to look at existing models and good practice in the area of 'continuing fitness to practise'.

Decision

This paper is to note. No decision is required.

Background information

None

Resource implications

None

Financial implications

None

Appendices

None

Date of paper

3 January 2008

Definitions

Revalidation

'The regular demonstration by registered doctors that they remain fit to practise in their chosen field(s).'

Ensuring standards, securing the future – consultation document (GMC, 2000)

'Revalidation is the process by which a regulated professional periodically has to demonstrate that he or she remains fit to practise.'

The regulation of the non-medical healthcare professionals (DH, July 2006)

'Revalidation is a mechanism that allows health professionals to demonstrate that they are up-to-date and fit to practise.'

Trust, Assurance and Safety – The regulation of health professionals in the 21st century (February 2007)

- At the last meeting

Discussion about definitions at the last meeting often included discussion about the aims and purpose of revalidation or defining what revalidation was not. The task of defining revalidation was certainly felt to be a difficult one, and some groups articulated their discussion in terms of a series of questions which had yet to be answered.

Possible definitions put forward by the groups included:

- 'Revalidation is a periodic reaffirmation of performance against standards which reflect contemporary practice and scope of practice.'
- 'A re-affirmation of fitness to practise'
- '...revalidation was more than being up-to-date and avoiding Fitness to Practise proceedings'.

Competence

'Competence is a practitioner's current ability to practise an entire role, combining individual competences and the use of wider judgement.'

The regulation of the non-medical healthcare professionals (DH, July 2006)

Performance

'Performance is the manner in which a practitioner has carried out a particular task or function. This is the observable part of competence.'

The regulation of the non-medical healthcare professionals (DH, July 2006)