

CPD requirements and options for Physicians for 2021-22

This guidance is for Physicians. Physician Associates should refer [here](#) for the latest COVID-19 guidance for Physician Associates including CPD requirements.

CPD credit requirements

In view of the continuing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Federation of Royal Colleges of Physicians will **waive all numerical CPD credit recommendations again for the 2021-22 CPD year**. We do advise however that physicians should continue to participate in appropriate CPD. The guidance we issued for the 2019/20 and 2020/21 CPD diary years is still available [here](#) for reference and we will be updating the [CPD diary guidelines](#) in due course.

With regard to the usual CPD rules, we should like to emphasise the following:

- The usual Federation annual credit requirements (50 overall with 25 external) are [recommendations only](#).
- The GMC as the regulator does not require a fixed number of CPD credits.

For the 2021-22 year it remains important that Physicians show evidence of engagement with the CPD process and with reflection. A note for appraisers regarding credit requirements during the pandemic has been included in the Federation CPD annual appraisal report that is generated from the CPD Diary. As stated last year, there will not be a requirement to 'make up' credits relating to the time of the pandemic in future years.

Expanded CPD Options

With effect from the 2021/22 CPD Diary year we are introducing changes to reflect the changing CPD landscape and to improve flexibility for CPD Diary Users. We are in the process of updating the CPD Diary and the full CPD Diary Guidelines to reflect these changes.

Livestreamed events, archived events and e-learning options

Alongside providers of CPD, we have adapted to the loss of live events. There has been a rapid expansion in approval of livestreamed CPD and where these events have also been made available 'on demand', we have automatically approved archived access for 4 weeks after the event. There is also an option for providers to seek approval for 'on demand' access beyond the 4-week period. We now approve larger e-learning resources in the form of e-platforms and e-libraries and you can find more about these [here](#).

External credits

Within this category we will allow any number of credits from *activities that are specifically developed for CPD and which allow the physician to determine whether the activity is likely to meet their learning needs*:

- Live events
- Streamed events
- Courses (including for MSc)
- Approved archived lectures and webinars

- Varieties of e-learning (including approved e-libraries and platforms)
- Approved podcasts

Activities that are designed for another purpose but which have educational value and are therefore awarded CPD credits will continue with the same credit limits as usual. These activities include examining and first attendance at ARCP panels (please see section relating to examining activities).

We advise that external CPD is obtained from a mixture of the options above, including live events when these are possible.

Personal credits

The current Federation guidelines state that only 10 personal credits can count towards the minimum of 50 that is normally required. Additional personal credits can be recorded but they do not count towards the usual minimum of 50. Work is under way to increase the number of personal credits that count towards the usual minimum of 50 credits to 20. However, a maximum of 10 can come from examination activities, as at present (please see below).

Credits for Examining Activities

There is no change in the credits physicians can claim for examining activities. Currently the Federation guidelines allow physicians to claim 12 external credits each year for MRCPUK Examination activities. The Federation also allows up to 10 personal credits for examining activities which can be used for MRCPUK examining activities and/or undergraduate examining. Examiners can also obtain credits for attending CPD activities run by MRCPUK updating them about examination practices. Further information on CPD for Examiners can be found [here](#).

Notes relating to the recording of CPD credits and changes to the CPD Diary

1. **Archived (on demand) access within 4 weeks of the livestreamed event**

For the duration of the pandemic we have automatically granted approval for archived access to approved livestreamed events to help busy clinicians. You can record this activity in your diary by using the code number issued to you (i.e. RCP123456.) Should you not have the code number, we recommend you search via the livestream date, specialty, or keywords under the 'Add Approved Entry' section.

2. **Archived (on demand) access more than 4 weeks after a live event**

If the provider has applied for this and it has been approved, it will be listed in the distance learning section of the CPD diary. Select the activity from this section in the usual way and make sure you claim the correct number of credits for the amount of CPD you have accessed 'on demand' by changing the default number. Please note that the Federation policy is not to approve satellite symposia or sessions organised by pharmaceutical or device companies. You can visit approved archived events more than once if you wish to access more of the available content. If you do this in the same CPD diary year you can update your original diary entry, adjusting the credits and reflection. See section 5 below for more detail.

3. **Distance Learning (including e-learning)**

Work is in progress to remove the cap of 10 approved distance learning credits within the CPD Diary. Self-certified distance learning can now be added as external CPD via the 'Distance Learning' tab under 'Add Self-Certified Entry'. On the Physicians' CPD app, 'Self-Certified Distance Learning' is present as an option of 'Class' when you add a self-certified entry.

4. **Approved E-platforms and E-libraries**

These large e-learning resources are listed in the distance learning section of the CPD Diary and may be visited on multiple occasions. E-platforms usually consist of e-learning modules and other on-demand activities such as archived webinars or lectures. You can claim 1 credit for each hour of CPD activity. Please make sure you select the correct number of CPD credits by changing the default number. E-libraries are only approved where they offer a tracking mechanism and certificate when you visit, you can claim 1 credit per hour of activity on an approved e-library, again please make sure you claim the correct number of credits by changing the default number. When you revisit an e-library or e-platform in the same diary year, we advise that you update the first entry for that resource in your CPD Diary (see section 5 below for more detail). Further information relating to E-platforms and E-libraries is available [here](#).

5. **How to update distance learning entries within a diary year**

Within your CPD diary, select the title of the resource, then the 'Reflections' tab to add additional reflections and adjust the number of credits. The maximum character count is just over 1000 per question and all text will appear on your Reflection Report. At present if you record more than 10 external approved distance learning credits, the additional credits will appear as personal credits. Work is in progress to address this.