

28 August 2019

Notice of extended recertification programme to 31 December 2020

Dear practitioner

Pending implementation of the new recertification system for all oral health practitioners, the current recertification programmes have been extended.

In accordance with section 41(6) of the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003, the Dental Council advises that at its meeting on 12 August 2019, it extended the current recertification programmes for all practitioners by one year, to 31 December 2020.

The extended recertification programme requires you to complete additional CPD hours and peer contact activities in the extended period to 31 December 2020 on a pro-rated basis as follows:

| | Additional minimum number of verifiable CPD hours | Additional minimum number of peer contact activities |
|--|--|---|
| Dentists Dental specialists | 20 | 3 |
| Dental hygienists Dental therapists Oral health therapists | 15 | 2 |
| Orthodontic auxiliaries | 7 | 1 |
| Dental technicians | 10 | 0 |
| Clinical dental technicians | 15 | 0 |

What does this mean for you?

- If you are a **dentist or dental specialist**, your current recertification programme has been extended to a four-year period from 01 January 2017 to 31 December 2020; and during that time, you must complete 70 verifiable CPD hours and 10 peer contact activities.¹
- If you are a **dental hygienist, dental therapist or oral health therapist**, your current recertification programme has been extended to a three-year period from 01 January 2018 to 31 December 2020; and during that time, you must complete 45 verifiable CPD hours and 6 peer contact activities.
- If you are an **orthodontic auxiliary**, your current recertification programme has been extended to a three-year period from 01 January 2018 to 31 December 2020; and during that time, you must complete 22 verifiable CPD hours and 4 peer contact activities.
- If you are a **dental technician**, your current recertification programme has been extended to a three-year period from 01 January 2018 to 31 December 2020; and during that time, you must complete 30 verifiable CPD hours.
- If you are a **clinical dental technician**, your current recertification programme has been extended to a three-year period from 01 January 2018 to 31 December 2020; and during that time, you must complete 45 verifiable CPD hours.

Requirements of the extended recertification programmes

| Extended recertification programme— 01 January 2017 to 31 December 2020 | Minimum number of verifiable CPD hours | Minimum number of peer contact activities |
|---|---|---|
| Dentists Dental specialists | 70 | 10 |

| Extended recertification programme— 01 January 2018 to 31 December 2020 | Minimum number of verifiable CPD hours | Minimum number of peer contact activities |
|---|---|---|
| Dental hygienists Dental therapists Oral health therapists | 45 | 6 |
| Orthodontic auxiliaries | 22 | 4 |
| Dental technicians | 30 | 0 |
| Clinical dental technicians | 45 | 0 |

All other requirements of your recertification programme remain unchanged, such as—

- a) **CPD activities do not need to be verified, but they still must be verifiable.** This means you must be able, if called upon to do so, to provide documentary evidence of attendance, and

¹ For the current three-year programme for dentists and dental specialists (01/01/2017 to 31/12/2019) the CPD hours and number peer contact activities were apportioned from 01 July 2017 to take into account the late notice to practitioners of the new programme requirements by six months.

documentation that shows the activity or the training provided is approved for verifiable CPD purposes by an approved CPD provider or verifier.

b) **You will be required to submit a self-declaration at the end of the extended CPD cycle** to confirm you have completed the minimum prescribed number of CPD hours and peer contact activities for your profession for the period commencing—

- 01 January 2017 to 31 December 2020 for dentists and dental specialists
- 01 January 2018 to 31 December 2020 for all other oral health practitioners.

c) **You will not be required to submit a detailed CPD activities schedule or log at the end of the cycle but**, we strongly recommend you maintain one for your records and as preparation for a possible audit following the end of your CPD cycle.

We reiterate that the CPD hours you have completed up to the end of this year do **not** need to be declared to us **until** the extended cycle has ended on 31 December 2020. This means your self-declaration is to cover the full extended programme period of three or four years depending on your profession.

Ongoing recertification project – what's coming next?

Council is currently developing its new recertification system. In March 2019, we issued an [outcomes document](#) from our consultation on proposals to improve the approach to recertification. Work is underway on the design and implementation for the new system.

In the meantime, the existing continuing professional development format will continue, and practitioners are advised to carry on meeting their CPD requirements as set by the Dental Council.

You will be provided with more information about the changes to recertification as soon as details are available.

Yours sincerely

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Registrar

Dental Council

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