

10 May 2021

Dear practitioner

Notice of new recertification programme for all registered oral health practitioners

In accordance with section 41(6) of the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 (the Act), the Dental Council advises that at its meeting on 12 April 2021, it set a recertification programme pursuant to section 41(1) of the Act as described in the [Recertification of oral health practitioners policy](#) dated 6 April 2020.

The start date of the new recertification programme is:

- 1 October 2021 for dentists and dental specialists
- 1 April 2022 for oral health therapists, dental hygienists, dental therapists, orthodontic auxiliaries, dental technicians and clinical dental technicians.

Dentists and dental specialists must meet all of the programme requirements by 30 September 2022, and then, on an ongoing annual basis until the Dental Council sets a new recertification programme.

All other oral health practitioners must meet all of the programme requirements by 31 March 2023, and then, on an ongoing annual basis until the Dental Council sets a new recertification programme.

The current recertification programme requirements for all practitioners ends on 31 December 2021.

Requirements of the new recertification programme

The programme is a significant departure from previous recertification programmes which have required a quota of continuing professional development hours and peer interactions over three or four-year cycles. The new recertification programme does not specify a quota of hours for professional development activities. It is designed to be flexible, so you can plan to suit your own professional development needs relevant to your scope of practice and, adapt your learning activities as required. The programme has six mandatory components.

All registered oral health practitioners¹ must:

1. have and interact with a *professional peer* recorded with the Dental Council
2. have a *professional development plan* (PDP)
3. participate in *professional development activities* (PDAs)
4. reflect on their professional development in writing
5. have their professional peer submit an annual online confirmation of their professional development
6. submit a declaration that recertification programme requirements have been met when they submit their annual practising certificate (APC) application online.

¹ A six-month grace period applies from the date of registration

You do not need to send the Dental Council records of your PDP, PDAs, written reflection or professional peer interactions. However, you must keep copies for three years and provide them to the Dental Council if requested.

Programme details

[A handbook for practitioners](#) providing 'how to' guidance and detail on meeting the requirements of the recertification programme is available on our website. Other resources designed to assist you are also available on our website including, a [Stop, start guide](#), [Quick guide brochure](#), and [Step-by-step fact sheet](#). We will be adding other resources shortly, such as video guides, and will let you know when they are available on our website.

Getting started with your programme requirements

For dentists and dental specialists		
2021	July	We will start sending reminder emails asking you to nominate a professional peer online
	30 September	You must have a professional peer recorded with the Dental Council by 30 September 2021
	October	You should be interacting with your professional peer, have a PDP, and start to participate in PDAs, from October 2021 Throughout your annual recertification cycle, you should be reflecting on your professional development, and preparing to record your observations in writing
2022	July	Ensure you have discussed your written reflection with your professional peer We will send emails to professional peers asking them to complete the annual online confirmation
	August	We will send emails with APC applications, which will include the recertification programme declaration
	30 September	Professional peer confirmations and recertification programme declarations must be received by 30 September 2022.

For dental hygienists, dental therapists, oral health therapists, orthodontic auxiliaries, dental technicians and clinical dental technicians		
2022	January	We will start sending reminder emails asking you to nominate a professional peer online
	31 March	You must have a professional peer recorded with the Dental Council by 31 March 2022
	April	You should be interacting with your professional peer, have a PDP and be participating in PDAs, from April 2022 Throughout your annual recertification cycle, you should be reflecting on your professional development, and preparing to record your observations in writing
2023	January	Ensure you have discussed your written reflection with your professional peer We will send emails to professional peers asking them to complete the annual online confirmation
	February	We will send emails with APC applications, which will include the recertification programme declaration
	31 March	Professional peer confirmations and recertification programme declarations must be received by 31 March 2023.

Current recertification programmes

On 5 May 2020, the Dental Council notified practitioners of its decision to [waive recertification programme requirements for 12 months until 31 December 2021](#) — recognising the impacts on practitioners due to the COVID-19 response. This means practitioners have been allowed extra time to complete their continuing professional development (CPD) hours and peer contact requirements that were notified on 28 August 2019.

All practitioners will need to submit a self-declaration of their CPD activities and peer contacts for the current recertification programme after it ends on 31 December 2021.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Rodgers', written over a faint, light-colored rectangular stamp or watermark.

Mark Rodgers
Registrar

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