

# ARE YOU READY FOR REVALIDATION?

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Registered nurses across the UK cannot have failed to be aware of the changes introduced to revalidation to come into effect from April 2016. The Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) and the nursing press have published the new requirements widely over the past months, providing explanations, support and guidance. Information provided to staff by their employers may vary enormously and it is, therefore, important that every nurse takes personal responsibility for reading and understanding the new requirements and taking steps to ensure he/she is ready when the time comes for revalidation.

The new process will come into effect in April 2016, but it is never too early to start thinking about how you will gather the necessary evidence. In summary, the elements of revalidation are:

- ▶ A minimum of 450 hours in practice
- ▶ A minimum of 35 hours of

continuing professional development (CPD), of which 20 hours must be participatory

- ▶ Five pieces of practice-related feedback
- ▶ Five written accounts reflecting on CPD activity or feedback, showing how they relate to the Code (NMC, 2015)
- ▶ Discussion of the five written reflective accounts with another NMC registrant. This must be signed and dated
- ▶ Health and character declaration
- ▶ Professional indemnity arrangement.

The weight given to the code in the new requirements reflects the NMC's purpose of ensuring all registered nurses are working with the principles of the central code to their practice. Reflection on practice and learning is also given more emphasis in this revised revalidation process. Attending study days and reading articles is not sufficient; nurses must provide evidence of how they have reflected on what they have learnt and how this has influenced practice. For more information go to: [www.Bit.ly/revalidGuide](http://www.Bit.ly/revalidGuide)

*Wound Essentials* aims to support your practice by providing easy-to-read, jargon-free, practical articles on a range of woundcare topics encountered by the general nurse or healthcare practitioner. Perhaps you could consider writing a reflective account after reading one of the articles in this issue, and discussing it with your peers or mentor if you are a student. *Wound Essentials* also holds an annual day conference each

summer that can count towards your participatory CPD hours.

This edition of *Wound Essentials* presents a good example of a reflective account of the acquisition of a new skill (in this case, sharp debridement). The author reflects on her local service provision and how attending the theoretical course and applying the new skill has enhanced her woundcare practice and benefitted patients. The reflective accounts required for revalidation do not need to be of such length, however.

There are many resources and templates available online to help nurses structure their evidence (for example: [www.rcni.com](http://www.rcni.com)). So the message is clear: don't leave it until the last minute, start preparing now!

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The Nursing and Midwifery Council (2015) *The Code. Professional Standards of Practice and Behaviour for Nurses and Midwives*. Available at: <http://bit.ly/1bZNQBi> (accessed 8.12.2015)

If you would like to contribute to a future issue of *Wound Essentials*, please contact the editor Adam Bushby via email:

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