



Recommendations

Continuing Professional Development

Faculty CPD recommendations for doctors working in the fields of forensic & legal medicine

- The Faculty is looking to establish a system through which Faculty members and other doctors working in the relevant fields can log CPD activity and receive confirmation that their logged activity has met the Faculty recommendations for CPD. It is currently intended that this scheme will be provided by the Faculty as a free resource for Faculty members and at a nominal charge for non-members currently practising in the relevant fields. As such, use of the system and participation in the Faculty scheme will be on a voluntary basis.
- CPD credits will be attached to relevant CPD activity based on the number of hours of educational content provided to those undertaking the activity.
- The Faculty recommends that individuals should aim to obtain 50 credits (representing 50 hours of CPD activity) each year and achieve a minimum of 250 credits over each 5-year cycle.
- CPD credits will be classed as:
 - **Personal development credits**
 - **Internal credits**
 - **External credits**
 - **Distance learning credits.**
- Individuals participating in the scheme are encouraged to aim to achieve an even balance of CPD activity spread across many types of CPD as relevant to their practice. The Faculty suggests that the spread of CPD activity should be discussed and agreed on a yearly basis at appraisal.
- **Personal development credits** may be claimed for each hour spent undertaking personal learning which would include reading clinical or academic journals, undertaking research in the field of forensic or legal medicine, revision for examinations or undertaking course work in a relevant discipline. This list is not exhaustive but those claiming personal development credits should record the activity undertaken and be prepared to demonstrate the relevance of the activity undertaken to their current practice if requested to do so. A maximum of 15 personal development credits may be claimed per calendar year.
- **Internal credits** may be claimed for time spent undertaking educational activity provided locally at the work place or organised by an employer. Such activity will usually be provided by colleagues or may involve peer review or reflective practice involving colleagues. Teaching colleagues or undertaking peer review activity on work undertaken by colleagues would be classed as 'internal' activity. A maximum of 25 internal credits may be claimed per calendar year.
- **External credits** may be claimed for attendance or participation in external educational activity including (but not limited to) attendance at relevant local, national or international conferences, workshops, lectures or courses (academic or practical). Many such activities may be ARC or FFLM accredited but this is not a prerequisite for the claiming of external activity credits. External credits may be claimed where in-house training is provided by external professionals.
- **Distance learning credits** may be claimed where time is spent undertaking structured educational activity in an area relevant to an individual's practice that is provided on a distance learning basis. Only the 'learning' part of any such activity should be recorded as distance learning credits. Undertaking course work or related research would be separately recorded as personal development credits. A maximum of 15 distance learning credits may be claimed per year.