

To: Chief Executive and Registrar

Room 542
Richmond House
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London
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0207 210 6361

1st November 2010

Dear

Non-Medical Revalidation

Ministers in all four UK countries have been considering policy on non-medical revalidation as part of their overall strategy on professional regulation. They are clear that the quality and safety of care delivered by all health care professionals will underpin the NHS' ability to deliver patient centred outcomes and recognise the important role the regulatory bodies play in sustaining and improving professional standards.

Clearly, given the pressures on the service over the coming years, we will all need to be confident that any further measures to strengthen and assure professional standards are proportionate and are supported by robust analysis of the costs and benefits of any proposals. Ministers in all four UK countries have therefore agreed that the professional regulatory bodies should continue to gather the evidence base to assess the feasibility and proportionality of non-medical revalidation.

You will be aware that the Secretary of State recently wrote to the General Medical Council, in response to its consultation on medical revalidation. In that letter he extended the piloting period by a year and stressed the importance of developing a clearer understanding of the costs, benefits and practicalities of implementation so that it can be paced in a way that is affordable and supports high quality care. In essence, these principles are the same for non-medical revalidation in that the benefits of introducing revalidation must significantly outweigh the costs before any decision on implementation is taken. The Secretary of State has also indicated that he would like the non-medical regulators to take account of the timetable for the medical revalidation pilots and consider any learning from those pilots where possible to inform the development of other revalidation systems. Ministers in the other three UK countries have confirmed their agreement on this approach.

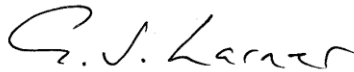
In order to maximise expenditure in front line care in the NHS in England, we are closely scrutinising central budgets in the Department to ensure that it is well spent and it is unlikely that the Department will be able to meet all the development and evaluation costs that the professional regulatory bodies may seek. If you have

identified any funding requirements for your work on revalidation, please can your revalidation lead contact Maree Barnett as soon as possible to discuss these further. Maree will continue to lead on medical and non-medical revalidation within my team. The Pharmaceutical Society for N Ireland should contact Joyce Cairns, Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, to discuss potential funding for this work.

The team look forward to working together with you to ensure proportionate and affordable arrangements for assuring the quality of our health professionals.

I am copying this letter to colleagues in Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales and to Harry Cayton at CHRE.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "G. J. Lerner". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "G".

**Gavin Lerner,
Director
Professional Standards**

cc Audrey Cowie
Barbara Bale
Joyce Cairns
Harry Cayton