



22 July 2010

Professional Competence – Promoting Quality

The Minister for Health & Children commenced Part 11 of the Medical Practitioners Act, 2007 – Maintenance of Professional Competence on 1st May 2010.

This means that you, as a registered medical practitioner in Ireland, are obliged to maintain your professional competence. Every doctor is required to register with a Professional Competence Scheme by 1 May 2011 and engage in activities to maintain professional competence.

Doctors have been maintaining professional competence on a voluntary basis for many years as part of their duty of care to patients. The commencement of Part 11 of the Medical Practitioners Act, 2007 now puts a formal, statutory structure around this practice.

Maintaining your professional competence on a formal basis is a statutory requirement and has many benefits: it helps to ensure that your skills and practice are up to date and that you benefit from the knowledge and expertise of others working in the profession; it also provides a quality improvement process that enhances the patient-doctor relationship.

Enclosed is some further information about professional competence. More detailed information is available from our website www.medicalcouncil.ie and from your relevant Post Graduate Training Body (PGTB). Work is ongoing at the moment to establish schemes and to determine procedural details in time for May 2011. While this work is ongoing, the purpose of this letter and leaflet is to raise your awareness of your new obligation. Further communication will issue in the coming months and in the meantime please review our website www.medicalcouncil.ie.

If you are not aligned to a training body, we would urge you to contact a PGTB suitable to your area of practice without delay. If you have any difficulty in engaging in Professional Competence Schemes or aligning to a PGTB please contact our Professional Competence Section at 01 498 3136 or pc@mcirl.ie. We will work with you to bring about a positive solution.

Please remember to complete & return your Medical Council Survey on Alignment to a PGTB 2010

Kind regards,

Marcus Balfe
Acting Chief Executive Officer