Revalidation in Pharmacy: Evaluation of Methods and Sources of Evidence for Revalidation of Pharmacists

Sara Visram, Mo Alani, Shivangee Maurya
Outline

• Background to the project
• Outline the methods used
• Discuss the findings: pharmacist perspectives on revalidation and appropriate methods
Background

• White paper, 2007
• Recommended revalidation process for pharmacists
• GPhC pilot April to December 2016
• GPhC plans to introduce new arrangements in 2018
• Previous studies investigating revalidation in pharmacy
  (Schafheutle et al., Jacobs et al., Elvey & Jee, 2013)
Definition of revalidation

“The process by which assurance of continuing fitness to practice of registrants is provided and in a way which is aimed primarily at supporting and enhancing professional practice”

(GPhC, 2012)

Now termed ‘continuing fitness to practice’.
**AIM:** To gain insight into the opinions of pharmacists on:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1) The current CPD process</th>
<th>2) The prospect of revalidation:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Potential impact of revalidation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Potential methods for revalidation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Methods

- Random sampling technique used

- Questionnaire consisting of Likert-scale statements and open-ended questions

- Issued to 100 community pharmacists in the Midlands

- Data analysed using descriptive statistics

- Ethics approval from University Ethics Committee

- Period of study October 2014 to June 2015
Questionnaire explored

- How pharmacists felt about revalidation?
- What sources of evidence could be used for revalidation?
- Who should undertake the process of revalidation?
- How often revalidation should take place?
- Concerns about revalidation / potential barriers
Results

- 58% response rate
- 51% males and 49% female respondents
- 73% had prior awareness of pharmacy revalidation

Duration of respondents’ qualification

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of years</th>
<th>% of respondents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 to 5</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 to 10</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 to 15</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 to 20</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 plus</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Results

• Support for a revalidation process: 88% in favour
• Consensus that it would benefit the profession
• However, revalidation model needs to:
  – Take account of the whole workforce
  – Consider appropriate sources of assessment
Results

Support for revalidation:

• 88% of participants expressed support for a revalidation process
Preferred sources to be used in revalidation:

- CPD cycles: 56
- Review with employers: 14
- OSCE: 12
- Patient feedback: 4
- Evidence from peers: 14
Results

Who should undertake the process:

- Employer: 61
- External body: 39
Results

How often should revalidation take place?

• Every 5 years: 76%
• More frequently than 5 years: minority

More frequent revalidation than 5 years would “cause stress and increased workload”.
Results

Barriers to revalidation:

• Barriers to CPD which may also hinder in the revalidation process:
  • Time constraints
  • Stress
  • Workload

Stress was based on a “fear of failing and being removed from the GPhC register”.
Discussion

A revalidation process would boost morale and raise standards

An appropriate revalidation model needs to be developed:
- Consider more than one appropriate source
- Different criteria for pharmacists in different sectors

Pharmacists need support for revalidation:
- Time
- Resources
Limitations

• Small sample size
  – More representative of pharmacist population
• Include pharmacists from different sectors
• Target a wider geographical area
• Investigate more depth into reasons behind pharmacists’ views
References


2. Jacobs et al., (2013). Existing arrangements for monitoring community pharmacies in England: Can they have a role in the revalidation of pharmacists?. Research in social and administrative pharmacy ; Research in social & Administrative Pharmacy, Volume 9, Issue 2: 166-177.


Thank you

• To Keele University
• To Simon White for his guidance
• To the pharmacists that took part
Question time…