**Medical Revalidation**

**Appraisal Support Tools**

As you may be aware, NHS England is making changes in relation to support systems/tools for the medical revalidation process of doctors with a prescribed connection to it.

**Revalidation Management System (RMS)**

NHS England has commissioned a system for managing the revalidation of any doctors connected to it. One of the many features of the Revalidation Management System (RMS) is that details from a doctor’s appraisal can be added to it in order to maintain a dashboard of that doctor’s status in their individual revalidation cycle.

RMS is not an appraisal vehicle and will not act as a replacement for current appraisal tools used such as Equiniti, Clarity or the MAG Form.

**Appraisal vehicles for recording appraisal**

If you are a doctor currently using an **appraisal vehicle commissioned by NHS England such as Equiniti or Clarity**, please understand that NHS England will not be commissioning this vehicle after 31 March 2016. You now need to make a decision about your future arrangements, bearing in mind that you have a personal professional responsibility to maintain your own appraisal records in a secure manner. Essentially, you need to make a choice between maintaining your existing vehicle through a personal arrangement with the provider, or to transfer to another vehicle. If you decide to transfer to another vehicle you will need to ensure that you download all of your appraisal documentation from your current system and store it securely. This should be completed before NHS England’s contracts expire on 31 March 2016.

The [NHS England Medical Appraisal Policy](http://www.england.nhs.uk/revalidation/appraisers/app-pol/) indicates that medical appraisals for doctors with a prescribed connection to NHS England may be undertaken using the [**Medical Appraisal Guide Model Appraisal Form (MAG Form)**](http://www.england.nhs.uk/revalidation/wp-content/uploads/sites/10/2014/03/mag-mod-app-frm.pdf)[[1]](#footnote-1) or another format which, as a minimum, replicates the information presented in the MAG Form. The MAG Form illustrates the functional requirements for a medical appraisal vehicle, consistent with the Medical Appraisal Guide. The MAG Form also functions as a suitable no-cost option for an appraisal vehicle accepted and recognised by NHS England.

Whichever vehicle you decide to use, you will be responsible for ensuring that your appraiser has access to your system and understands its functionality. You must also ensure that your appraisal information complies with the Medical Appraisal Guide and is available in a format that permits it to be uploaded to the RMS. In terms of this latter point, if your appraisal can be downloaded as a pdf or Word document, this will be acceptable.

In practical terms, if you continue to use your existing vehicle, which is currently commissioned by NHS England, via a personal arrangement with the provider, or if you use the MAG Form, both of these options will be acceptable without further discussion with your responsible officer. If you are considering changing to a different vehicle you need to consider whether it will meet the above criteria. If in doubt as to whether your intended vehicle will meet the above requirements, you should discuss the matter with your responsible officer’s team before making a decision.

**Refresh and update of the MAG Form for 2016/17**

Work is currently underway to refresh and update the MAG Form. This will not be a radical overhaul of the existing form, rather some subtle modifications intended to improve the look, feel and user-friendliness of the form, along with enhancing the outputs and effectiveness of the appraisal process for both doctors and their appraisers. The updated version will remain as a stand-alone, interactive pdf document and should be available in March 2016.

1. The [Medical Appraisal Guide Model Appraisal Form (v0.03 NHS Revalidation Support Team, 2012)](http://www.england.nhs.uk/revalidation/wp-content/uploads/sites/10/2014/03/mag-mod-app-frm.pdf) is an interactive pdf that allows doctors and appraisers to enter information and attach documents before and after the appraisal meeting. It has been designed with the appraisal meeting in mind, in a logical manner that mirrors how the appraisal conversation may flow. Before downloading the form, doctors and appraisers should review the [MAG Model Appraisal Form User Guide (NHS Revalidation Support Team, 2012).](http://www.england.nhs.uk/revalidation/wp-content/uploads/sites/10/2014/03/mag-org-user-guide.pdf) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)