iMAP – the path to full RCGP Membership for established GPs

iMAP comprises two distinct assessment stages, the production of a satisfactory portfolio followed by an oral assessment.

The portfolio is divided into 15 criteria, all of which are relevant to everyday general practice and could be used as evidence for appraisal and Revalidation.

- Prescribing log
- Significant Event Analysis
- Acute illness management
- Long term patient care
- Patient Satisfaction Questionnaire
- Multi Source Feedback
- Keeping good medical records
- Personally administered drugs
- Audit
- Safeguarding children
- Complaints
- Maintaining Good Medical Practice
- Providing treatment in an emergency
- Referrals
- Ethical principles

The oral covers the same criteria. Part of it focuses on the portfolio produced, part on broad issues surrounding the different criteria.

Over 800 GPs from a variety of working practices (from locums and OOH specialists to PCO Medical Directors, partners, and salaried GPs) and from Scotland Wales and Northern Ireland as well as England have successfully completed the assessment. Several hundred more are in progress.

Here are some comments from previous candidates:

*It has been worth doing. I feel I have improved both my practice as an individual and contributed to improvement for the whole practice.*

*Was a useful process of learning. Being critical of ones own work is always difficult but useful to make me understand where I could improve more.*

*A worthwhile process of self-reflection.*

*It helped me look at certain things in another perspective. Doing iMAP has certainly improved the quality of care that I provide to my patients.*

*Thank you for providing the opportunity to undertake this process which has stretched me personally but has definitely improved the care to patients.*

*Stressful and time consuming but worthwhile.*

*A very positive milestone in my career – has set me up very well for continuing professional education, in practice, and for Revalidation etc.*

Further information is freely available on the iMAP pages of the RCGP website, and the iMAP office is happy to answer any queries.

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