

Introduction

What happens when a trainee returns to work after a period of absence?

The GMC requires *doctors to:*

keep their professional knowledge and skills up-to-date.

This is not an easy task!

Medicine is an **ever-evolving practice**; it is difficult to keep abreast of the latest **guidelines**. There is a lack of tailored training for post-graduate doctors in **Northern Ireland** to refresh their medical knowledge amongst trainees who have taken time **Out-Of- Programme (OOP)**.

Current Initiatives in HEE:

SupportTT - provides targeted assistance to help doctors get back “up to speed”

CaReForME - supports doctors who have had a break in practice

Aims

- Assess if there is interest in a medical refresher course amongst those who have been OOP In Northern Ireland
- Create and deliver an online course for trainees to access

Method

A questionnaire was sent to all doctors in training in Northern Ireland. Questions posed included how they kept up-to-date with NICE guidelines, was there interest in a medical refresher course, and which topics should be covered?

Results

- **45/246** doctors in training responded
- 44/45 respondents had difficulties keeping up-to-date with NICE guidelines.
- 42/45 were interested in an online course to refresh their medical knowledge
- 20/45 had taken time OOP
- The top 4 areas to update were Cardiology (73%), Endocrine (64%), Renal (62%) and Respiratory (62%).

Conclusion

The study revealed a clear desire for a Medical Refresher course, even amongst those not OOP. As a result we are producing an accessible ‘**MedicRefresh Course**’ hosted on NIMDTA’s online **Learning Management System**.

Content for each medical speciality will consist of pre-recorded sessions on key topics delivered by practitioners within that field. It will also include guidance from GMC and HR to assist doctors returning to work.

References

- GMC** - <https://www.gmc-uk.org>
- Supportt HEE** - <https://www.hee.nhs.uk/our-work/supporting-doctors-returning-training>
- CaReForME** - <https://www.hee.nhs.uk/careforme>