

## CPD update – May 2011 SVT Newsletter

The SVT theory and practical exams are in place to ensure a minimum standard of practice and Continued Professional Development (CPD) enables extension of this learning throughout a career in Vascular Science. Accredited Clinical Vascular Scientists need to record and submit CPD activity annually in order to maintain AVS status. The CPD year runs from 1<sup>st</sup> September to 31<sup>st</sup> August each year to coincide with the membership year, with the most recent submission in September 2010. The last year has seen clarification of and some changes to the CPD requirement for the accredited members as the new Accreditation/CPD document was published in August 2010. In this summary I wanted to discuss the areas that have changed and highlight some of the common problems regarding CPD, the current situation and future developments.

The AVS membership includes a range of demographics and as such a whole host of activities can attract CPD points. However, CPD points can only be gained by activities that are additional to everyday working. Therefore MDT meetings, workplace mandatory training (CPR, manual handling, etc.), day-to-day training of trainees etc. are not worthy of CPD points.

The CPD year runs from September to August irrespective of the successful practical exam date. A total of 30 points is needed over a 3-year rolling period, i.e. 2007-2010 was required in Sept 2010 and this coming September CPD for the years 2008-2011 will be counted. The CPD form now requests confirmation of minimum number of scans performed and as usual the CPD activity during that year. Members require 100 scans in each of the core modalities (carotid, venous and arterial). Please contact me to discuss any issues regarding these requirements.

The way that the SVT awards points for maternity leave, sick leave and sabbatical have also been simplified. One point is awarded for each month, up to a maximum of 12 (i.e. one year), in order to reflect the time actually taken off work. Time off may often straddle two CPD years; just make sure you record the points in the appropriate year.

There is some confusion over the CPD questions in the newsletter and when points should be allocated. After discussion at the Education Committee, we have decided that members should record the 2 points (if successful) for the month that the questions are set and not when the answers are available. This will make it easier to track the recording of the points on the CPD form. This will obviously cause a bit of problem with August CPD questions, but I will take this into account when updating the CPD records.

### Trainees and CPD

As CPD is calculated on a rolling three-year period and funds for study days etc. are scarce; the Education Committee has decided to allow pre-AVS activity to count towards CPD total. CPD is not a requirement for trainees, but this change should hopefully enable learning prior to accreditation to be taken into account but must be

within the required time period. However attendance at the revision days does not attract CPD points for trainees, as this is specifically aimed at passing the theory exams.

Also it is now necessary for newly qualified AVSs to submit a CPD form in the September following their practical exam. You no longer get 10 for qualifying, but 10 points per pre-AVS year, as well as any other CPD activity.

#### 'At-risk' Members

The SVT does not want to lose members especially those who are accredited, as we all know that passing the exams requires a lot of hard work. Therefore members who do not meet the CPD requirements (CPD points or number of scans) should contact me as soon as they become aware of this and we can work together to solve difficulties. 'At risk' members will be entered onto a programme to remedy the CPD problem to help get them back on track. This requires members to obtain a total of 40 points for a 4 year period i.e. September 2007 – August 2011. This enables members to make up the missed points for 2007-2010 and accrue the 10 points needed for 2010-2011.

#### 10% Random Sampling

As the SVT is striving toward official registration with the HPC/DoH our CPD process must be robust. Therefore there is now a yearly auditing process of CPD activity of around 10% of AVS members. This means that you may be asked to provide evidence of your CPD activity for the preceding three year period, as well as evidence of scan numbers, so please make sure you can do this. Evidence can be in the form of signed study day attendance records or programme (if presenting), journal articles published, newsletter question results etc. It is the responsibility of members to keep appropriate records of their evidence in case of being asked by the Education Committee to prove CPD activity.

#### Online CPD Database?

The new website and membership database is up and working after lots of hard work by various Exec Committee members, however the next project is an online CPD database and form. It should allow easier management of the CPD data and enable online submission of CPD activity (even automatic CPD points when members attend SVT study days or answer newsletter CPD questions). Work should start this year, but it will not be up and running in time for 2010-2011 CPD submission, so please use the form that is on the website and either post or email it to me.

#### Current Situation

Currently there are 158 AVS members that are up-to-date with CPD and thank you to all those members who submitted their CPD form in a timely fashion. There are still 10 members that are not fully up to date, with 4 more on the CPD 'at-risk' programme. Of those 10 members, 5 have not been in contact at all and risk losing their AVS and the other 5 are still required to submit the 2010 CPD form but have contacted me.

Please ensure the SVT has up-to-date postal and email addresses so that we can easily contact you; this can be done via members section of the SVT website.

**If you are an accredited member and haven't had a signed CPD form back from me, then you must contact me as soon as possible.**

It has been quite a long process to get implement these changes and to get most members and records up to date.

The CPD document can be found on the SVT website:

[www.svtgbi.org.uk/Education/CPD](http://www.svtgbi.org.uk/Education/CPD) and I look forward to receiving everybody's CPD form promptly in September 2011.

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