Continuing professional development (CPD)

This page provides an introduction to continuing professional development opportunities (CPD), the importance of e-portfolios and links to further information.

The aim of personal and professional development is to help you manage your own learning and growth throughout your career. It’s important to continue learning throughout your career and to keep your skills and knowledge up to date. This ensures you continue to work safely, legally and effectively.

The NHS offers continuous professional development (CPD) opportunities for both full-time and part-time staff at all levels.

There are many learning activities that you can take part in such as:

- on-the-job learning
- courses and workshops
- volunteering · E-learning

CPD

If you work in a role that requires registration with a regulatory body in order to practise, then you'll usually be required to keep your skills and knowledge up to date through CPD. You can find out what the requirements are from the regulatory body responsible for your profession. Professional bodies provide advice, support and opportunities to enable you to maintain your CPD. The Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development has more information about CPD, including tools to help you record your CPD. Find out more about personal development planning. Our individual role pages provide links to relevant regulatory and professional bodies under the 'Further information' section.

Career development and progression
You can expect an annual personal development review and development plan to support your career progression. The Knowledge and Skills Framework (KSF) provides opportunities for all staff to extend their range of skills and take on new responsibilities. This can include retraining to move into another area. If you have a degree, there are graduate entry programmes [1] that you can consider.

**E-portfolio**

An e-portfolio allows you to store and record a collection of evidence to demonstrate the skills you have developed. It is useful for:

- keeping all your relevant documents together
- reflecting on your learning · recording your career planning in your personal development plan [2] (PDP)
- preparing for applications and interviews

Find out more about developing a portfolio [3]

For doctors, e-portfolios are particularly important at Foundation training [4] stage, as a fully completed e-portfolio may be required at interview for specialty training.

Find out more about e-portfolios and assessments for doctors [5]

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**Links**
[1] [https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/i-am/considering-or-university/training-opportunities-degree](https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/i-am/considering-or-university/training-opportunities-degree)
[2] [https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/career-planning/developing-your-career/personal-and-professional-development/personal-development](https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/career-planning/developing-your-career/personal-and-professional-development/personal-development)
[3] [https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/career-planning/developing-your-health-career/developing-your-portfolio](https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/career-planning/developing-your-health-career/developing-your-portfolio)
[4] [https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#Foundation_training](https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#Foundation_training)