CPSYCHI
COLLEGE OF
PSYCHIATRISTS
OF IRELAND

Professional Competence when on Statutory Leave from Practice

[March 2026]

- Maternity, parental, carers, adoptive leave and other forms of statutory leave and illness.
- Not practicing medicine for 90 days or more in a PCS year.
- Ensure you are enrolled in PCS .
- Email pcs@irishpsychiatry.ie with type of statutory leave, start date and expected return to practice date.
- Do not send documentation – keep it on your own files.
- Engagement in professional competence is encouraged but is discretionary and not mandatory.
- That year on your PCS annual statement will be annotated: "Period of certified absence >3 months reported".

"*The Medical Council recognises that there may be circumstances where a doctor is unable to meet the CPD requirement and in those cases, the CPD hours may be reduced. In such cases, it is the responsibility of a doctor to notify their Training Body of any change to their circumstances which may affect their CPD obligations. Modified requirements may apply to the following:*

Maternity, parental, carers, adoptive leave, and other forms of statutory leave and illness:

Doctors on maternity, parental, carers, adoptive, or any other form of statutory leave or who for reasons of illness, do not practise for a period of more than three months in a scheme year are not required to undertake CPD, though they are required to enrol in a Scheme. The doctor must inform the Training Body of their leave or illness in writing and provide any supporting material which may be required. The Training Body will make the necessary annotation on the doctor's Statement of Participation. Doctors are encouraged to maintain some engagement in CPD over the duration of the leave, but this is discretionary and not mandatory. When they are preparing to or when they return to practice, doctors must engage with their Training Body to discuss their learning and development needs."

- Medical Council MPC Guidelines, page 18, ***8. CPD Requirement Exceptions***