

Professional Competence – What to do if you are absent from practice

Sometimes, for various reasons, you may not practise medicine for a period of time.

Leave from practice may have an impact on your ability to meet the legal minimum professional competence requirements, and this may then be reflected on your annual statement of participation.

You are advised to maintain some level of engagement in maintenance of competence, however this may not always be feasible

Annual Statement Annotation

If the duration of your absence from practice lasts for 90 days or more within a Professional Competence year, and falls into one of the categories listed below, it will be possible to make an annotation on your Annual Statement of Professional Competence

- Maternity Leave
- Medically Certified Sick Leave
- Bereavement Leave
- Parental Leave
- Adoptive Leave
- Carer's Leave

While you don't need to upload certificates to your ePortfolio, you should keep them in a safe place

Steps to record an absence from practice in new ePortfolio

1. Click "Create a new event"
2. Choose "Record an Absence from Practice"
 - a. "Date Occurred on" is the start date for your record
 - b. "End Date" is the end date for your record
3. Pick the Professional Competence Year that applies to your absence
 - a. If the end date for your absence from practice is after 30 April, please complete a separate form for the dates that apply to each year
4. Click "Submit"

Sabbatical or extended leave

If you stay on the Medical Council register while on sabbatical or extended leave you are expected to continue to meet your professional competence scheme requirements.

The Medical Council does not allow doctors to stay on the register if they cannot meet professional competence scheme requirements.

If your absence from practice has an impact on your ability to meet professional competence requirements, you should consider removing yourself from the medical register.

If you do not practice medicine and do not intend to practise medicine for the foreseeable future, the Medical Council advises you to [voluntarily withdraw from the register](#).

We're here to help

We can advise you on how to maintain your professional competence and continuously develop your professional skills. You can also find a wealth of information on our website www.rcpi.ie/professional-competence/

If you are unsure what Scheme you should enrol on, contact professionalcompetence@rcpi.ie for advice

Contact the RCPI Professional Competence department at (01) 863 9739 or professionalcompetence@rcpi.ie