

IMPORTANCE OF CONTINUOUS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (CPD)

Advances in patient's care will progress in leaps and bounds over shorter period of time. What is an accepted standard of practice of care today may not be relevant in the near future. It is, therefore, important for professionals working within the Ministry of Health, Brunei Darussalam to be abreast with these changes.

This is in line with Ministry of Health's organisational values:

1. **Client first:** Our clients define us
2. **Dynamic:** We embrace change and develop our people through having a "growth mindset", we thrive on the opportunity to continuously improve
3. **Excellence:** We uphold the highest level of professionalism, where everyone matters and everyone delivers the highest quality service every time
4. **Together:** We are one and we embrace diversity, we are united through one common purpose

By definition, continuing professional development (CPD) is the concept that learning continues throughout one's life, both through educational courses, work experience and practice. Individuals are encouraged to identify their personal learning needs and to assess their progress in dynamic ways.

Services within the Ministry of Health arrange various continuous professional development activities that are relevant to the role that each services undertakes. These activities allow for a more interesting group learning, exchange of ideas and opinion as well as promote a sense of belonging to an organisation that has a common goal to deliver the best for our patients. Such activities include attending lectures, journal clubs, seminars, workshops, conferences and short courses but active involvements such as teaching, presentation of a lecture, audit involvement and publication in journals is encouraged and bears more weightage in annual collection of CPD points.

However, at the root of it, lies the individual's professional responsibility to be updated in their field in order to maintain and protect the safety of patients and meet their expectation. Finding the balance between the requirements for continuous professional development and family commitments can be a challenge, which will require proper time management and finding that additional help and support from relatives, friends and even, neighbours.

Brunei Medical Board:

Significance of CPD to each individual medical and dental practitioner are paramount to the development of their professional capacity and competency.

Good Medical and Dental Practice guidelines provides that practising medical and dental practitioners are required to keep their knowledge and skills up to date throughout their working life. This helps to ensure one's familiarity with relevant updated guidelines and developments that may affect their work. This can be achieved by regularly attending and taking part in educational activities that maintain and develop competency and performance. (Item 12, *Good Medical and Dental Practice*, Brunei Medical Board, Ministry of Health, Brunei Darussalam).

The Brunei Medical Board has been very particular and serious in making sure that each application for renewal of Annual Practising Certificate must be supported with verified CPD points of minimum thirty points (30).