

## **S12(2) Approval/ Eligibility FAQs**

### **1. I have passed all components of the MRCPsych and need to be approved, what do I do?**

Please contact your regional Approvals Office and request for an application pack. Return a completed Application Form with a copy of your certificate of attendance of S12(2) Induction course, CV, ARCP for trainees and CPD compliance for non-trainees as well as DBS check Please check with your regional panel before submitting your application as there may be additional documents that individual panels require.

### **2. I am a Speciality Doctor. Am I eligible for S12(2) Approval?**

Career grade psychiatrists with 48 months of experience (wte) in a supervised psychiatric post are eligible to apply for S12(2) approval. You will be required to provide evidence of experience along with the application documents that include a detailed CV, evidence of CPD compliance, DBS, copy of your certificate of attendance following completion of a S12(2) Induction course and two supervised Mental Health Assessments. (Form can be obtained by email request to your local Approval Panel).

### **3. I am retired from the NHS. Can I get approved?**

Yes, you could still apply for S12 approval, provided you meet the professional requirements and eligibility criteria for S12(2) approval at the time of application.

However, the Panel must be satisfied that the applicant has provided satisfactory evidence of ongoing involvement in the diagnosis or treatment of mental disorder.

### **4. I am a GP. Do I meet the eligibility criteria for approval? Yes if you are one of the following:**

GPs on the Performers List with MRCGP qualification who have a minimum of three years full time experience in a salaried or principal GP post, which is not a temporary post. This should include at least 4 months of experience in a supervised psychiatric training post, or a post that satisfies the criteria for accreditation by the Royal College of GPs, as a GP with special interest in mental health.

GPs without MRCGP, but have 4 years' experience as a salaried or principal general practitioner, which is not a temporary post will be able to apply for S12(2). This should include at least 4 months of experience in a supervised psychiatric training post, or a post that satisfies the criteria for accreditation by the Royal College of GPs, as a GP with special interest in mental health.

### **5. Is my S12(2) course certificate valid for approval in Wales?**

Yes, Approval Panels in England and Wales will accept each other's S12(2) course certificates for the purpose of S12(2) MHA approval.

### **6. How do I register for CPD?**

You can register for Continuing Professional Development (CPD) with the Royal College of Psychiatrists either as a full member or an affiliate. This is free to those who have passed their CASC and obtained a full membership. Doctors in non-training grades are encouraged to register for CPD before approval is granted.

**7. I have not completed the course. Can I be approved?**

No. It is a national requirement (DHSC New Instruction 2015) that applicants for approval must have completed a Mental Health Act Approved S12(2) Induction course. Your papers may be processed before your course attendance, to avoid further delay in granting approval, provided you have forwarded evidence of your course booking together with your application and other necessary papers to your approval Panel.

**8. How long does it take for me to get my approval?**

If your application is in order and you meet the criteria for approval it can take up to 6-8 weeks or longer for the Panel to complete the process.

**9. The panel have refused me approval. Can I reapply later?**

Possibly, but suggested to wait for at least six months from the date of refusal, depending on the reasons given for your refusal. If the problem or issue which prevented your approval has been addressed you may be approved on reapplication.

**10. I have trained abroad including 3 years psychiatric training covering sub-specialities. I am now working as a middle grade doctor in England. How soon can I be S12(2) approved?**

You can apply under criteria 3.1 if you have MRCPsych qualification and for that you would require 3 months of experience in England or Wales to meet the reference Criteria.

Applicants seeking approval under criteria 3.4, and who have trained abroad, are required as a minimum to have worked 12 months in England or Wales and to have appropriate overseas experience of 3 years duration. Their overseas experience should be supported by a certificate or confirmatory letter indicating that relevant post graduate training in psychiatry has been completed. (Further information can be obtained by contacting your regional Approvals Panel).

**11. I have trained overseas and am a qualified Consultant Psychiatrist with Specialist Registration. How soon can I be S12 approved in England?**

You will need to have worked in England or Wales for 3 months (full time or equivalent hours) to meet the reference requirement.

In addition the Section 12 Introductory Course requirement and evidence is required of CPD compliance, DBS and CV.