



# IRVAP Grandparenting Process for IEH Members

## What is Grandparenting in Healthcare?

**Grandparenting** is a recognised process in healthcare that helps raise professional standards. It allows for a **transitional period** where current members can meet new requirements gradually, without immediately needing new qualifications.

IRVAP-IEH is using this process to support current IEH members in moving to a **higher standard of practice in equine hydrotherapy** through the creation of a new **Level 4+ Standardised Register**.

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## Understanding Level 4 Qualifications

A **Level 4 qualification** represents advanced learning, similar to the first year of a bachelor's degree. Examples include a Level 4 Award, Certificate, or Diploma, based on the number of credits and learning hours.

The goal is to improve clinical skills and ensure consistently safe and effective care for horses.

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## What's Changing?

From **2025**, IRVAP-IEH will introduce a **new Level 4+ Standardised Register**.

- The aim is to move all IEH members to this higher standard by the **end of 2025**.
  - The **IEH Board** is fully committed to supporting members through this change.
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## The Grandparenting Process (2025)

### Who Does It Apply To?

All current IEH members renewing in **March 2025**, and new members joining between **15th March – 15th December 2025**.

### What Happens?

These members will be **grandparented onto the new Level 4+ Register**, based on the **current requirements** (listed below).

### Current (Old) Requirements for IEH Registration:

1. CV
2. CPD Log



3. Equine First Aid (completed in the last 3 years)
4. Equine Hydrotherapy Water Testing Log Template

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## IEH Grandparenting Window:

**15th March 2025 – 15th December 2025**

This 9-month window applies to **all renewals and new IEH applications**.

After this window closes, **new rules** will apply for everyone who has not renewed or joined.

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## New Registration Rules (After 15th December 2025)

Anyone applying **after 15th December 2025** must meet the **new entry requirements**:

1. CV
  2. CPD Log
  3. Level 4 or 6 Diploma in Applied Equine Hydrotherapy (certificate & transcript)
  4. Regulated Level 3 (or above) Equine First Aid Course (in-person every 2 years, online in between)
  5. Water testing log (past 6 weeks)
  6. Water testing policy and procedure
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## CPD Requirements for All IRVAP Members

All members must complete **50 hours of CPD** over **2 years** (25 hours per year).

Members are responsible for tracking and maintaining an up-to-date CPD log via the IRVAP website.

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## Grandparented Members – What's Next?

From **15th December 2025 to 30th March 2029**, all grandparented members must complete the following:

1. A **Level 4 or 6 Diploma** in Applied Equine Hydrotherapy (from the IRVAP approved list)  
**and**
2. A **regulated Level 3 (or higher) Equine First Aid Course** (in-person every 2 years, online in between)

It is **each member's responsibility** to complete and provide evidence of these qualifications within the 3-year period.



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## How IRVAP Will Support You

IRVAP is committed to:

- Helping you understand your options
- Guiding you through qualification pathways
- Sharing information on **IRVAP-approved courses** to support your progress

Together, we are raising industry standards while supporting your professional journey.

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## FAQs: IEH Grandparenting Process

### 1. What is grandparenting in healthcare?

It's a **transitional process** that allows current professionals to be registered under **new, higher standards** without needing to meet all the new requirements immediately.

### 2. Why is the IEH using grandparenting?

To give existing members time to meet new **Level 4 education and training standards** while continuing their professional work.

### 3. When is the grandparenting period?

From **15th March 2025 to 15th December 2025** – a 9-month window for renewals and new applications.

### 4. What happens after the grandparenting period ends?

From **15th December 2025 onwards**, **new rules** apply. Anyone who hasn't renewed or applied by then must meet the new requirements.

### 5. How will this affect future renewals?

Starting **March 2026**, renewals must be completed within a **4-week window**. If missed, members must reapply under the **new rules**.

### 6. What do new applicants need after the grandparenting period?

From **15th December 2025**, new applicants must submit:



- A **Level 4 or 6 Diploma** in Applied Equine Hydrotherapy (from the IRVAP approved list)  
**and**
- A **regulated Level 3 (or higher) Equine First Aid Course** (in-person every 2 years, online in between)
- **Water testing log (past 6 weeks)**
- **Water testing policy and procedure**
- **CV and CPD log**

#### **7. How will compliance be checked?**

IRVAP will randomly audit a minimum of **2% of members each year** to check CPD records and ensure a mix of learning activities.

#### **8. How is the IEH Board supporting members?**

By providing clear guidance, approved course options, and multiple pathways to help all members meet the new requirements.

#### **9. Does CPD apply to all members or just grandparented ones?**

**All IEH members** must meet CPD requirements from **15th December 2025 onwards**, not just those grandparented.