

Statutory Regulation Looms!

RCCP's bid to HPC Accepted & a Provisional Recommendation has been sent to the Secretary of State

- June 2004—last date that registration process can be guaranteed!
- 2005—Statutory regulation comes into place, making registration much more costly and time consuming.
- HPC registration costs for Grandparenting estimated at £200.00!
- The admin office has moved! See back for details

The RCCP Register now has nearly 3000 registrants and will continue to be open for voluntary registration until State Registration legislation is implemented in early 2005.

After that, registration will be via the Health Professions Council and will be a much more expensive process, particularly for those of us who need to be "grandparented" (ie. those practitioners who's evidence of competence to practice is not in line with current guidelines for academic and professional qualifications). Also, it is worth bearing in mind that "grandparenting" will only be possible for 2 years after State Registration is implemented - ie.: until early 2007. *After that date, the minimum route to registration for those commencing training in 2004 or later will be the BSc Clinical Physiology, BSc (Hons) Audiology or equivalent. However, it will not be an onerous or expensive process for those students who have already started training via an acceptable route, who will not be able to apply until 2005/6/7 when they have completed four years.

RCCP Council are concerned that so far, there are many people in the country that are still unregistered. We are anxious to avoid a "last minute stampede" before the register is transferred to the Health Professions Council. Each application to the RCCP voluntary register has to be considered in detail and may need to be referred back to the applicant for further information before being approved by Council.

This process can take between 3 - 6 months to complete and so it has been decided that, although we will continue to receive applications until the register transfers, we cannot guarantee that applications received after **30th June 2004** will be processed in time for the transfer of the register to the Health Professions Council.

*"After that date, there will be only one way to registration—the Clinical Physiology Degree"**

One of the consequences of State Registration is that Clinical Governance will be facilitated for Clinical Physiology disciplines. Clinical Governance is about minimising risk and maximising best practice and all NHS Trusts have Clinical Governance departments to manage this process. State Registration is a powerful means of achieving the aims of Clinical Governance in that it ensures that all regulated practitioners have followed an appropriate training pathway and have been deemed competent to practice within a given discipline. The Health Professions Council will also ensure that Registered Practitioners maintain their competence by a mandatory programme of continuing professional development.

The Clinical Governance leads for all NHS Trusts will be updated on the regulation of practice through the Department of Health & Health Professions Council and will be anxious to ensure that all practitioners within the soon to be state registered disciplines are on the voluntary register ready to transfer to the state register when it opens. This is one of the most fundamental ways of achieving Clinical Governance and minimising the risk to the public. Trust managers will not want to risk employing unregistered practitioners as, in the event of a medico-legal case, they would be held accountable for allowing an unregulated person to practice.

It is therefore, important that all currently practising professionals within the Clinical Physiology disciplines are ready for State Regulation of Practice and are on the register before January 2005.

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The Registration Council - 2003

We could not have done it without YOU!

2003 has been a busy but exciting year for the council members of RCCP. Below are just a few of the things we have achieved in the last 12 months, all of which could not have been done without the continued support of the registrants. So for all of you that have taken the time to complete a form and pay up year in year out, a big **THANK YOU!** :-

- The website was set up with the electronic form and guidelines available for download, proving very successful with new registrants.
- RCCP attended meetings with HPC regarding statutory regulation.
- Ballot taken to obtain feedback on statutory regulation. The response was 2838 supporting regulation and just 8 opposing.
- RCCP Professional Bodies Education Committee liaised with Education Providers to obtain accreditation of their course.
- The petition to HPC was put together by the council. It included letters of support from many influential organisations and individuals. E.g. John Hutton & David Blunkett. It was then presented to HPC.
- RCCP **successfully petitioned** to the Health Professions Council on 8th October 2003.

The Administration Office.....!



Agenda for Change

Agenda for Change will redraw the map of where Healthcare Science professionals sit in the scheme of things. All NHS employees, with the exception of medical/dental practitioners and senior managers, will be assimilated on to a new Pay Spine which will have 8 bands.

*“Has the
RCCP bid to
HPC been
successful? -
Yes it has!”*

Currently the work on job profiles for Healthcare Scientists is progressing for each pay band and one thing is certain: **Registered Practitioners will fare better.**

All of the currently State Registered degree level practitioners e.g. Nurses, Radiographers, Physiotherapists etc, appear to be settling on a basic grade registered practitioner (the so-called "independent practitioner") being assigned to Pay Band 5. This would equate to a newly qualified, registered nurse, radiographer etc - or indeed, a newly qualified, registered Clinical Physiologist.

————— This highlights the importance of obtaining state registration as a degree level profession.

Frequently Asked Questions

As part of the RCCP website a Q & A section has been set up for people to have their registration questions answered. Here are the most commonly asked:-

- **Has the RCCP's bid to HPC been successful?**

Yes it has! RCCP on behalf of your profession, have successfully petitioned for regulation under the Health Professions Council, with the council giving an overwhelmingly positive vote.

- **When Clinical Physiologists are state registered, what will the consequences be for those who have not joined the voluntary register?**

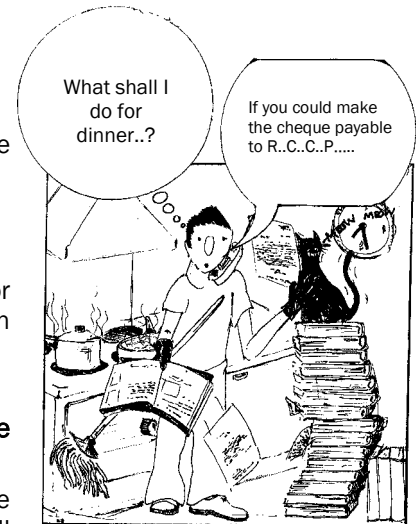
As the Health Professions Council will not know if a Clinical Physiologist is on the register they will not be able to prevent a person from practicing. This decision will be left with the individual's employer. The decision will hinge on what stance the Trust takes in terms of risk assessment. What they will need to consider is what happens if a complaint is made or a member of the public is harmed by a non-registered practitioner? The Trust would then be asked the question "Why are you employing such people to carry out work normally done by registered professionals?". What is certain is that non registered practitioners will be at a considerable disadvantage in the employment market place, both for promotion and for applying for new jobs.

- **I am having difficulty finding proposers for application for registration.**

Send your form without proposers if you cannot find any. However you will require a reference and if your head of department is not yet on the register or you are the head of department you will need an additional reference from someone whose practice is statutorily regulated and who is able to comment on your practice as an independent practitioner. This may well be one of your consultants.

- **What do I write for the personal report?**

The more detail you are able to provide about the various competencies, the better. Examples are fine. You should probably aim to write a paragraph or so about how you fulfil each of the criteria. Ideally, these should match your job description and should also be referred to in your reference letter. This latter item is particularly important if you are applying under the "grandparenting" route.



The Council Members...!

WE'RE ON THE WEB
WWW.RCCP.CO.UK

Our website provides:-

- **Information on the professional bodies involved in the process**
- **Contact details for the council members and professional body representatives**
- **Access to electronic versions of the registration form and detailed guidance**
- **On-line access to the published register**
- **The formal articles of constitution**
- **Latest information for registrants**
- **Question & Answer Forum (Q&A)**

Audiology/Hearing Therapy	British Academy of Audiology	www.baaudiology.org
Cardiology	Society for Cardiological Science and Technology	www.scst.org.uk
GI Physiology	Association of GI Physiologists	www.giphsiology.org
Neurophysiology	Electrophysiological Technologist's Association	www.epta.50megs.com
Respiratory	Association for Respiratory Technology and Physiology	www.artp.org.uk

CONTACT DETAILS

If you have any queries regarding registration please do not hesitate to contact the RCCP.

All general enquiries should be directed to the administrator.

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New Admin Address!