

Dear Colleagues,

Re: Clinical Physiologists Petition to the Health Professions Council

I am delighted to announce that RCCP on behalf of your profession, have successfully petitioned for regulation under the Health Professions Council [HPC], with the Council giving an overwhelmingly positive vote.

We have yet to receive the official notification, as our presentation to the HPC council only took place on 8.10.03. But I am reliably informed that the HPC will be making a provisional recommendation to the Secretary of State. The reasons for the recommendation being provisional are twofold:-

1. HPC anticipates that a number of aspirant groups will seek regulation over the next four years. A number of the groups within Healthcare Science may have broad similarities and clinical physiologists are likely to be one of these.
2. Parliamentary timetable will probably mean that changes to the Health Professions Order 2001, relating to Healthcare Scientist aspirant groups will not be made until early 2005.

The HPC will therefore make final recommendations on all aspirant groups in Healthcare Science area, who are ready for regulation, in late 2004. For those who take longer to develop a voluntary system a further group should go forward in 2006. HPC expect that clinical physiologists will be in the first group to go forward for statutory regulation in 2005.

This is only the first phase albeit an essential one. The next phase involves RCCP working with the Regulation Branch of the Department of Health, who will begin the long process of crafting the legislation and a document for issue as part of the public consultation exercise.

Therefore I estimate that our voluntary registration system has between 16 and 18 months of operation under its present form. Once again I would **urge all potential registrants to apply to the voluntary register NOW**. It will be a more straightforward and less expensive process [estimated costs for future grandparenting under HPC are over £200]. As ever help is available via your professional body representative and their contact details appear on our web site at www.rccp.co.uk

May I take this opportunity to thank all of registrants for their continued support in our endeavour to achieve statutory regulation of practice, soon to be realised. I also would like to thank on your behalf your professional body representatives who have worked so hard to achieve this objective on behalf of all of our professions.

Yours sincerely
Anne Burge
Hon Chair RCCP