

Registration renewal reminder

Profession	Renewal deadline / lapsing date
Radiographers	28 February 2010
Physiotherapists	30 April 2010

All registered radiographers were invited to renew their registration with the Health Professions Council (HPC) recently and we will be inviting physiotherapists to renew shortly. The lapsing date for radiographers is 28 February 2010 and for physiotherapists it is 30 April 2010. The renewal form must be signed and returned to the HPC. Registrants must also send a payment (unless a direct debit instruction is in place) with their signed renewal form.

There are several ways in which you can make sure your name stays on the HPC Register.

- Call the HPC Registration Department now if you have changed your home address.
- Send your renewal form (and payment) to us well before the deadline.
- Sign up to this e-newsletter, which includes renewal reminders, by emailing newsletter@hpc-uk.org
- Help your colleagues to stay registered by reminding them about renewing their registration.
- Approximately ten days after you have sent your renewal form, check the online Register via our website (www.hpcheck.org) to ensure that you are showing as registered for the next two-year registration cycle.

If you would like free renewal posters to display in your department, please email publications@hpc-uk.org or call the Communications Department on 020 7840 9806.

The average processing time for renewal applications is approximately ten working days, although this time may vary depending on the volume of forms we receive. Once we have processed your renewal form and payment, our online Register is immediately updated to show your new registration dates. The Register is in real-time and is the best way for you or your employer to verify your registration status. The Register can be viewed via our main website – where employers can also check the status of up to 100 people at a time, using the ‘multiple registrant search’.

This newsletter and previous issues can be downloaded from the website at www.hpc-uk.org/publications/newsletter

To have it sent straight to your inbox, please email newsletter@hpc-uk.org

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Welcome to the first edition of HPC In Focus of 2010.

In this issue we have important information about a new consultation (see page 3) as well as details of the conclusions of two recent consultations (see pages 3 and 4).

As always, we include details of forthcoming HPC events and opportunities to meet HPC employees. Our next Listening Events take place in Shrewsbury and Swansea – see page 6 for details.

You may also be interested in two new publications from the HPC – one specifically for students and education providers. See page 4 for more information. We have also recently refreshed our public information materials – see page 7 for details and to order your free copies.

Look out for the next edition of HPC In Focus in your inbox on Friday 9 April 2010.

Jonathan Jones, Editor

Registration renewal reminder (continued)

More information

For more information about registration renewals, please visit the dedicated pages on our website at www.hpc-uk.org/registrants

To check the Register please visit www.hpcheck.org

The registration team can be contacted Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm on our lo-call number 0845 3004 472 (if calling from within the UK) or +44 (0) 20 7840 9802.

Continuing professional development (CPD)

We selected a random sample of radiographers, and will also select a random sample of physiotherapists, to submit a CPD profile. Those selected for audit must complete a profile that demonstrates that they meet our CPD standards. For more information about this process, including sample profiles, the CPD standards and an audio-visual presentation about CPD, please visit our website at www.hpc-uk.org/registrants/cpd

Radiographers selected for audit must return their completed CPD profile by **28 February 2010** and physiotherapists by **30 April 2010**.

The registration team can be contacted Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm on our lo-call number 0845 3004 472 (if calling from the UK) or +44 (0)20 7840 9802.



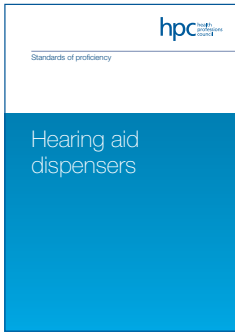
Record number of biomedical scientists renew their HPC registration – and first renewal for practitioner psychologists

From September to November 2009 (then extended by two weeks due to postal disruptions), we invited all biomedical scientists to renew their registration for the next two years. This year 96.1% successfully renewed. This is excellent news and, compared to last time, the improvement is clear; 92.1% of biomedical scientists renewed two years ago. Practitioner psychologists also renewed their registration for the first time during this period. An impressive 92.8% renewed successfully.

We have been working closely with a number of stakeholders to remind registrants about the importance of renewing their registration. We distributed letters, information and posters via the Institute of Biomedical Science (IBMS), the British Psychological Society (BPS) and the Association of Educational Psychologists (AEP). We also promoted renewal dates online and in print. This collaborative working has made a real difference and has prevented many registrants from lapsing off our Register unnecessarily.

We would like to say a big thank you to the IBMS, BPS and AEP and all the human resources managers, service managers, trade union representatives and employers that have helped us in this work.

Transfer of hearing aid dispensers to the HPC Register



Private sector hearing aid dispensers are set to join the HPC Register on 1 April 2010. Hearing aid dispensers are currently regulated by the Hearing Aid Council (HAC) but government has decided that their regulation should transfer to us. The HAC will close following the transfer.

We have already consulted on standards of proficiency for hearing aid dispensers alongside the HAC and will publish these standards before our Register opens. We will also contact private sector hearing aid dispensers to provide information about the transfer and registration, as well as providing additional information on our website.

Consultation on removing the health reference as a requirement for entry to the Register

We are consulting on removing the requirement to provide a health reference completed by a doctor for those applying to join our Register. The consultation proposes that the health reference should be replaced with a self-declaration to confirm that the applicant does not have a health condition which would affect the safe and effective practice of their profession.

The requirements we set should be necessary, proportionate, reasonable and non-discriminatory. In view of this, we must consider whether requiring a health reference completed by a doctor is a proportionate means of finding out whether those seeking entry to our Register are fit to practise.

You can download copies of the consultation document from our website or you can contact

us by email or phone if you would like us to send you a copy. Please contact us to request a copy of this document in an alternative format, or in Welsh.

Once the consultation is over, we will analyse the responses we receive. We will also publish a document which details the comments we receive and explains the decisions we have taken as a result. This will be available on our website. The consultation runs from **4 January 2010** until **9 April 2010**.

Website: www.hpc-uk.org/aboutus/consultations

Email: policy@hpc-uk.org

Telephone: +44(0)20 7840 9815

HPC publishes conclusions on the proposed statutory regulation of psychotherapists and counsellors

In December we published the conclusions from a public consultation on the potential statutory regulation of psychotherapists and counsellors by the HPC, and presented these conclusions to the Secretary of State for Health and Scottish Ministers. The consultation ran for three months and incorporated recommendations made by the Psychotherapists and Counsellors Professional Liaison Group (PLG) and the HPC Council.

In the 2007 White Paper on the future of health regulation, the Department of Health stated that psychotherapists and counsellors should be regulated by the HPC, subject to consultation and

legislative approval. The HPC was then instructed by government to examine how that could be done. The consultation received over 1,000 responses, the majority from individual practitioners in the field as well as from service users, charities and professional bodies. The responses revealed a range of different views to be taken into account in considering the most appropriate way forward.

The HPC agrees with government that the regulation of psychotherapists and counsellors is important for the protection of the public. However, the final decision about the statutory regulation of these groups rests with government.

HPC publishes conclusions on the proposed statutory regulation of psychotherapists and counsellors (continued)

Marc Seale, the HPC's Chief Executive, commented:

“Based on the work undertaken to date, the HPC is confident that its systems can accommodate the regulatory needs of psychotherapists and counsellors. Statutory regulation would seek to enhance public protection by protecting commonly recognised professional titles and providing a fair and appropriate

complaints system. It would also seek to protect the professionals by removing incompetent and unethical practitioners from practising and potentially harming the public, and thus reducing damage to the profession's reputation.”

You can find further information at www.hpc-uk.org/aboutus/consultations/closed/index.asp?id=93

HPC publishes conclusions on the proposed statutory regulation of dance movement therapists

In December we published the conclusions from a three-month public consultation on the potential statutory regulation of dance movement therapists by the HPC, and presented these conclusions to the Secretary of State for Health and Scottish Ministers.

HPC's Chief Executive, Marc Seale commented:

“The HPC welcomes the opportunity to regulate dance movement therapists. As a multi-professional regulator, we are confident that we are well placed to regulate this profession and have the necessary experience of successfully taking on new professions

and integrating them onto the Register. We are looking forward to continuing to work effectively and in collaboration with the Association for Dance Movement Psychotherapy and stakeholders from this profession.”

Whilst the HPC recommends the statutory regulation of dance movement therapists, the final decision rests with government.

You can find further information at www.hpc-uk.org/aboutus/consultations/closed/index.asp?id=92

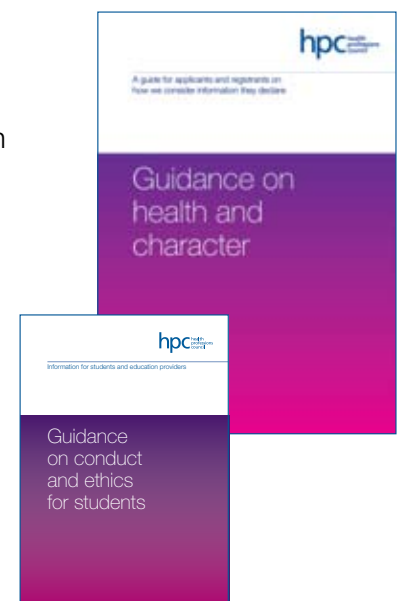
New publications for students, registrants and education providers

The HPC has recently produced two new publications which are designed for students, education providers and registrants.

The first is called Guidance on conduct and ethics for students. This publication provides guidance for students and will also be of use to education providers in teaching students about conduct and ethics.

The second is called Guidance on health and character. This publication explains how the HPC looks at information that applicants or registrants declare about their health or character. It also explains the processes that are followed and the decisions that may be made. The publication also provides information for education providers on how to handle concerns about a student's health or character which arise whilst the student is studying.

You can find copies of both of these publications on our website at www.hpc-uk.org/publications/brochures. Hard copies are available on request from our Communications Department by emailing publications@hpc-uk.org or calling +44 (0)20 7840 9806.



Fitness to Practise Department update

Our Fitness to Practise Department is responsible for handling complaints, known as 'allegations', about the fitness to practise of professionals we register. As the size of the Register continues to grow, the number of fitness to practise cases continues to increase. In the first eight months of 2009–10 we have received 515 new fitness to practise cases. This is already more than we received in the whole of the last financial year. By the end of March 2010 we expect to have received 757 cases, which will be 36 per cent more than last year.

The number of cases which have been concluded at a hearing in the same eight month period has also increased: 173 substantive hearings have been concluded. During the whole of the 2008–09 financial year 175 cases were completed. This means that we will have concluded more cases than have been referred for a hearing in the first nine months

of 2009–10 than we did in the whole of the last financial year.

The Fitness to Practise Department works hard to manage cases as efficiently and effectively as possible, within the necessary legislative framework. Fitness to practise investigations relate to only 0.2 per cent of the professionals on the HPC Register, but we understand that being under investigation can be an anxious time for everyone involved. Work within the Department includes ensuring that all cases are dealt with as quickly as possible and making information about our processes and procedures as accessible as possible.

Find more information about the work of the Fitness to Practise Department in the Fitness to practise annual report 2008–09, which is available in the publications section of the HPC website.

The HPC is show partner at Naidex 2010



We are delighted to be a Naidex show partner once again this year. Naidex was established over 35 years ago and is the largest disability, rehabilitation and homecare event in the UK. This year's event will take place from 20 to 22 April at the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham and is expected to be even bigger than last year, attracting around 11,000 delegates including occupational therapists, physiotherapists, other professionals and members of the public. New features will include a sensory garden and a 'communication village' showcasing the latest developments in assistive technology, which will be of particular interest to speech and language therapists.

Naidex will again be running free seminars throughout the event. As part of the CPD Professional Seminar Theatre, Mark Potter, CPD Communication Manager at the HPC, will be presenting on all three days of the exhibition. The seminars will explain our CPD requirements and give delegates an opportunity to raise specific queries, and will also provide a more general update on regulation and the HPC. Representatives from the HPC will also be available at our exhibition stand to talk to delegates and distribute publications.

Find out more and register on the Naidex website at www.naidex.co.uk

Listening Events

Registrants attending Listening Events are given the chance to speak directly with the HPC. They provide valuable networking opportunities and are a great way to share ideas and best practice on topics such as CPD, communications and fitness to practise.

The next set of Listening Events will be held in Shrewsbury and Swansea. The Shrewsbury events are now fully booked but there are still places available at our Listening Events in Swansea.

Swansea – Tuesday 2 March 2010

1.45pm – 4pm and 5.45pm – 8pm

(two identical events)

The Village Hotel, Langdon Road, Swansea SA1 8QU

These events are booking-up fast and we have just a few places remaining. To book your free place visit www.hpc-uk.org/mediaandevents/events, email events@hpc-uk.org or call +44(0)20 7840 9806.

Come and meet the HPC

The HPC will be exhibiting at the following events, where representatives from the HPC will be on hand to answer queries, and provide HPC literature to take away. Why not come along and meet us?

Attachment and the Arts

The Resource Centre, London

12 February 2010

www.baat.org

At this one-day conference run by the British Association of Art Therapists, presentations will address what can be learnt from the 'mentalisation model' and the growing involvement of arts therapies in the social inclusion agenda.

Health and Wellbeing @ Work

National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham

9–10 March 2010

www.healthatwork2010.co.uk

The HPC will be exhibiting at this event for human resources and occupational health professionals, rehabilitation and therapy specialists, and other professionals responsible for the environment, health and wellbeing of work-aged people.

The Care Show

Bournemouth International Centre, Bournemouth

30–31 March 2010

www.careshow.co.uk

This event dedicated to care homes and the care of older people is the UK's largest event for the older people care sector.

Request refreshed public information materials

We recently reviewed and refreshed our public information materials. These A5 leaflets and A4 posters are designed for display in waiting rooms and public areas and were developed in response to demand from HPC registrants. They explain the importance of using a registered professional and include a list of the professions regulated by the Health Professions Council.

Using feedback from the Plain English Campaign and Connect, a disability communications organisation, we have refreshed the content and design of the public information materials. The changes are intended to make them as accessible and appealing to members of the public as possible. The leaflet now incorporates the Plain English Campaign's Crystal Mark. If you have copies of the older leaflets and posters on display in your workplace, please contact us for the refreshed versions.

Request materials free of charge at www.hpc-uk.org/registrants, email publications@hpc-uk.org or call +44 (0)20 7840 9806.



Dates for your diary

HPC Council and committee meetings are held in public. All meetings start at 10.30am and take place at Park House unless otherwise stated. More information, including minutes and agendas can be found at www.hpc-uk.org/aboutus/council

Council and committee meetings: February 2010 – April 2010

Tuesday 2 February 2010	Education and Training Committee
Wednesday 10 February 2010	Finance and Resources Committee
Thursday 11 February 2010	Council
Thursday 18 February 2010	Communications Committee (11am start)
Wednesday 24 February 2010	Audit Committee
Thursday 25 February 2010	Fitness to Practise Committee
Wednesday 10 March 2010	Education and Training Committee (am and pm)
Wednesday 17 March 2010	Finance and Resources Committee
Thursday 25 March 2010	Council
Thursday 29 April 2010	Finance and Resources Committee

Contact us

What do you think of this newsletter? Is there anything you would like to see in future issues? We would like to hear your views, so please email newsletter@hpc-uk.org

To subscribe or unsubscribe please email newsletter@hpc-uk.org

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Alternative formats

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