

Council Meeting – 9 December 2010

Review of the Health Professions Council (HPC) admission forms

Executive Summary and Recommendations

Introduction

At its meeting of 7 July 2010, the Council agreed to replace the requirement for applicants to the HPC Register to provide a health reference with a self-declaration that an applicant's physical or mental health did not impair their fitness to practise.

This paper provides recommended changes to HPC admission forms for the Council's approval. Changes to guidance will be made as appropriate.

Decision

The Council is invited to approve;

- (i) that HPC admission forms are amended to remove the requirement for applicants to provide a health reference for entry to the register;
- (ii) that HPC admission forms are amended to include the following self declaration (followed by a space to insert a signature and a date):

"I declare that my physical and mental health do not impair my fitness to practise the profession to which this application relates."; and

- (iii) that changes detailed under (i) and (ii) be made to the following forms:

- Registration form – UK applicants;
- Registration form – international/EEA applicants;
- Registration form – grandparenting applicants; and
- Readmission form - applicants wishing to come back onto the HPC Register (re-admission).

Background information

The HPC conducted a consultation, on replacement of the health reference with a

self-declaration that an applicant's physical or mental health did not impair their fitness to practise, between 4 January and 9 April 2010.

Following that consultation, the Council decided to remove the health reference as a requirement for entry to the HPC Register and replace it with a self-declaration. In doing this, HPC considered that it was removing the possibility of discrimination against applicants with health conditions or disabilities which would not affect their fitness to practice, and was putting a system in place which will be easier for applicants to understand and manage.

Proposed changes to the admission forms and guidance were reviewed by the Education and Training Committee at its meeting of 18 November 2010, following which a minor amendment was made to the guidance notes. ETC recommended that the Council approve these changes. The forms and guidance have also been reviewed by HPC's lawyers.

We hope that these changes will enable us to continue to provide an improved service to applicants, registrants and other stakeholders.

Resource implications

None.

Financial implications

Nil

Background papers

The Council paper and decision of 7 July 2010, regarding the removal of the health reference, are available on the HPC website.

Appendices

Draft Registration form - UK applicants - provided for information.

Date of paper

30 November 2010