

Analysis of, and reply to, responses to ODP SETs consultation 28 January 2005 – 11 March 2005

In line with the Health Professions Order 2001 (Article 15.-(1)-(3)) it is necessary to amend the Standards of Education and Training to reflect the addition of the new profession by making appropriate changes to the threshold entry routes to the Register.

Consequently, to include the ODPs, who entered the Register on the 18th October 2004, the HPC conducted a 6 week consultation which commenced on 28th January 2005 and concluded on 11th March 2005. This consultation effectively placed the HPC's proposed changes before a range of stakeholders including professional bodies.

The proposal made in the consultation paper was that, SET 1 would be altered to read as follows:

1. Level of qualification for entry to the Register:

1.1 The Council normally expects that the **threshold** entry routes to the Register will be the following:

1.1.1 Bachelor degree with honours for the following professions:

- chiropody or podiatry;
- dietetics;
- occupational therapy;
- orthoptics;
- physiotherapy;
- prosthetics and orthotics;
- radiography;
- speech and language therapy;
- biomedical science (with the Certificate of Competence awarded by the Institute of Biomedical Science (IBMS), or equivalent if appropriate); and

1.1.2 Masters degree for the arts therapies.

1.1.3 Masters degree for the clinical sciences (with the award of the Association of Clinical Scientists' Certificate of Attainment, or equivalent).

1.1.4 Equivalent to Certificate of Higher Education for paramedics.

1.1.5 Diploma of Higher Education in Operating Department Practice for Operating Department Practitioners.

All interested parties were invited to give their views and to respond to the consultation document.

Following the consultation period, all responses were analysed. The responses were tabled at the Education and Training Committee on 14 June 2005 and the proposed amendments were approved.

A summary of the views and opinions received is below.

The HPC received eleven (13) responses to the consultation paper in total. Of the thirteen responses, the comments were as follows:

- 2 had no material comment to make
- 6 welcomed the proposed change with no further comment
- 5 had substantial comments or suggestions to make

The responses came from a range of sources which are identified as:

- 5 NHS trusts/hospitals/strategic health authorities
- 2 Professional Bodies
- 4 Training centres/Education providers
- Health Professions Wales
- 1 Private

Of the 5 responses with substantial comment to make, the relevant issues raised were:

- 1) ***The Diploma of Higher Education in Operating Department Practice programme may exclude those individuals who hold pre-diploma qualifications such as the SNQ and NVQ level 3 qualifications and the City and Guilds of London Certificate:***

Our reply: In order to ensure that the majority of the ODP workforce is able to register with the HPC, we considered a range of qualifications when determining the threshold level of entry to the Register.

SET 1 (1.1) of the Standards of Education and Training states that “*The Council normally expects that the threshold entry routes to the Register will be the following*”. Thus, the Diploma of Higher Education in Operating Department Practice is what is **normally**, but not only, expected of registrants. *The Scottish or National Vocational Qualification in Operating Department Practice, Level 3*, is no longer being offered, but has been open-endedly approved by the Council as an entry pathway to the HPC Register. Further, *The City and Guilds of London Institute 752 entitled Certificate in Operating Department Assistants (awarded from 1976-1993)*, and *The Certificate of Assimilation issued prior to 1980* have been approved as entry pathways to the HPC Register until the end of the two year grandparenting period on 17 October 2006.

- 2) *That those individuals with dual qualifications, such as nurses, be only able to register with one statutory body:*

Our reply: During the consultation process, one of the aims was to determine that a profession has a “*defined body of knowledge*”, thus making it exclusive. As the HPC is concerned with protection of title, and ultimately the protection of the public, if an individual is employed and practicing as an ODP, they must be competent and qualified in the tasks they undertake as an ODP, and must always act within their scope of practice. Similarly, if someone is employed and practicing for example, as a nurse, there is no reason they cannot reasonably undertake some of the functions of an ODP if they are appropriately trained. It is unlikely that anyone with dual qualifications would have the need to be dually registered.

- 3) *The terminology “Diploma of Higher Education in Operating Department Practice” is too prescriptive. A phrase such as “Diploma in Operating Department Practice” would be more appropriate:*

Our reply: The HPC’s Standards of Education and Training are concerned with determining the threshold level of qualification that an individual normally holds in order to be able to meet the Standards of Proficiency for the profession. Consequently, the threshold level must be an approved qualification, held by the majority of the workforce and delivered by an approved education provider. After extensive consideration, it was determined that the *Diploma of Higher Education in Operating Department Practice*, meets the criteria and is the most appropriate qualification for this purpose.

- 4) *The nature of the work of ODP’s is such that a qualification such as a Bachelor or foundation level programme would be a more appropriate threshold level:*

Our reply: In determining the threshold level of entry to the register, it was important to propose a qualification that a) did not exclude a large number of the workforce, and b) which meets the HPCs Standards of Proficiency, which were determined after a six week consultation undertaken in May/June of 2004. The HPC has undertaken an assessment of the Diploma qualification against the SoPs and is satisfied that they are duly met.

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