

Health Professions Council
Education and Training Committee, 28th September 2006
Review of the standards of proficiency for operating department practitioners

Executive Summary and Recommendations

Introduction

Article 5 (2) (a) of the Health Professions Order 2001 (“the order”) provides that:

The Council shall from time to time—

(a) establish the standards of proficiency necessary to be admitted to the different parts of the register being the standards it considers necessary for safe and effective practice under that part of the register

The standards of proficiency for operating department practitioners were published in July 2004. The register for operating department practitioners opened on 18th October 2004. The Council committed to keeping the standards for operating department practitioners the same during the grandparenting period which will end on 17th October 2006.

In 2004, the Council agreed to establish a Professional Liaison Group (PLG) to review the standards of proficiency for the first 12 professions. The PLG took account of the views of the Association of Operating Department Practitioners (AODP) and other operating department practitioner stakeholders in considering whether changes were necessary to the generic standards.

The attached work plan sets out the proposed timetable of activities to review the profession-specific standards of proficiency for operating department practitioners. The generic standards should change in line with the recommendations of the PLG, agreed by the Council on 6th July 2006.

Decision

The Committee is invited to approve the attached work plan and to recommend its approval by council.

If in agreement, the Committee is invited to discuss and agree the members of the Committee who should attend the discussion meeting in January or February 2007.

Date	Ver.	Dept/Cmte	Doc Type	Title	Status	Int. Aud.
2006-09-15	a	POL	PPR	Review of the standards of proficiency for ODPs	Final DD: None	Public RD: None

Background information

The PLG reviewing the standards of proficiency for the first 12 professions regulated met five times between October 2005 and June 2006. The new standards were agreed by the Council on 6th July 2006 and will be consulted on shortly.

Resource implications

- Research and writing of committee papers
- Consultation on new standards (if appropriate)
- Co-ordinating and reviewing responses

Financial implications

- Type-setting and publication of new standards (online and in hard-copy).

Background papers

None

Appendices

None

Date of paper

12th September 2006

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2006-09-15	a	POL	PPR	Review of the standards of proficiency for ODPs	Final DD: None	Public RD: None

Review of standards of proficiency for operating department practitioners

1. Terms of Reference

To review the profession-specific standards of proficiency for operating department practitioners to ensure that the profession-specific standards are set at an appropriate level and reflect current practice as experienced by registrants, employers and educators.

2. Lead

Education and Training Committee

3. Plan

The review should consider a variety of evidence including:

- information from professional bodies;
- a review of fitness to practise competence cases involving operating department practitioners to date;
- information from registration assessors;
- information from visitors; and
- information from education providers.

The review should draw on the work undertaken during the review of the standards of proficiency for the first twelve professions regulated.

4. Plan of Activities

The following is a suggested plan of activities for the review:

October/ December 2006

Professional bodies invited to comment about profession-specific standards for operating department practitioners.

January / February 2007

Discussion meeting held with representatives from professional bodies and the Education and Training Committee. Papers circulated in advance of meeting to include papers on the topics described in 3 above.

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March 2007

Recommendations considered by the Education and Training Committee at meeting on 28th March 2007.

May 2007

New standards approved for consultation by Council on 31st May 2007.

July/ August/ September 2007

Public consultation

November 2007

Results of consultation and standards (amended as necessary) considered by the Council.

January 2008

Publication of new standards

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