

Education and Training Committee meeting – 2 December 2008

Similarities between six continuing professional development (CPD) profiles

Executive Summary and Recommendations

Introduction

This paper is for information purposes only and provides an explanation of a situation encountered during the continuing professional development (CPD) audits for chiropodists / podiatrists.

Decision

For information only.

Background information

During the first round of audits for chiropodists / podiatrists, HPC assessors uncovered similarities between six CPD profiles. There was a concern that the profiles may not have been representative of the individuals own work. Substantial sections of the text within the profiles were identical or very similar. Part of each profile had been completed in handwriting, which appeared to be identical in each case.

Following legal advice, each of the six registrants were contacted by letter and were asked to confirm that the profile submitted was a true reflection of the CPD activities they had undertaken. We also asked for an explanation as to how the profile had been prepared and, in particular, how it came to contain portions of text and handwriting which were identical or very similar to that in profiles submitted by other registrants.

It was also pointed out that although HPC had no objections to registrants using templates or exemplar documents to assist them in preparing their profiles, the use of standard documents or text from profiles prepared by third parties was inappropriate given that a CPD profile should be both a registrant's own work and a true reflection of their own CPD activities.

Following this, contact was made with HPC by a CPD training provider, who explained that their members who are HPC registered either use them for their CPD or provide them with copies of other CPD activities undertaken from other sources. They maintain a live portfolio for members and retain documentary evidence of the registrants' practice and other activities.

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Date	Ver.	Dept/Cmte	Doc Type	Title	Status	Int. Aud.
2008-11-11	a	REG	PPR	ETC readmission / cpd	Final	Public
					DD: None	RD: None

The CPD training provider confirmed that they had compiled the CPD profiles on behalf of their members.

The legal advice that we received indicated that the guidance which those registrants received from HPC contains no requirement that profiles must be their own work or constitute their personal reflection on practice etc. Therefore, whilst possibly not in keeping with the 'spirit' of the CPD process, they do meet the requirements imposed on the registrants and need to be accepted. The legal advice also stated that we may want to consider revising the CPD guidance for the future to include specific anti-plagiarism provisions.

Based on the legal advice received the executive accepted the profiles and intends to revise the CPD guidance as soon as possible.

Resource implications

Nil

Financial implications

Nil

Background papers

Nil

Appendices

Nil