

Bulletin: Issue 31

Meeting of Council: 17 February 2010

Revalidation progress report

As previously reported, Europe Economics has been commissioned by the GCC to make sure there is a credible business case for a risk-based, proportionate scheme of revalidation for the chiropractic profession. This is being developed in consultation with, amongst others, the GCC Revalidation Working Group, which includes representatives from chiropractic professional organisations and patients.

Council congratulated Europe Economics on the presentation of an excellent progress report and agreed that it would be helpful to bring the report to the attention of the profession. A copy can be downloaded [here](#). Next steps that need to be completed prior to full consultation with the profession and other stakeholders are as follows

- a. Electronic survey of the UK chiropractic profession
- b. Design of contents of revalidation scheme
- c. Piloting to assist in estimating revalidation compliance costs
- d. Assessment of benefits.

Proposed amendments to Professional Conduct Committee Rules

Council considered draft amendments to the GCC's Professional Conduct Committee Rules in relation to:

- a. Case management provisions
- b. Arrangements for the lodging of hearing bundles
- c. Evidence admissible in civil, rather than criminal, proceedings
- d. Vulnerable witnesses.

These provisions mirror those already adopted by another regulator and are designed to assist in the management and duration of hearings.

Members agreed that the draft amendments should be submitted to the Privy Council Office.

Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence's recommendations following a review of the General Social Care Council

Council noted the outcome of a review commissioned by the Secretary of State for Health in July 2009, and undertaken by CHRE, of the General Social Care Council's conduct function. Members gave preliminary consideration as to whether any learning points for the GCC arose from CHRE's reported recommendations and agreed that the matter should be remitted to the new Fitness to Practise Committee for detailed discussion at its meeting to be held in March.

Review of Indicative Sanctions Guidance

The GCC's Indicative Sanctions Guidance aims to promote consistency and transparency in the decision-making of the Professional Conduct Committee and Health Committee. To make sure the guidance remains fit for purpose, a consultation draft showing amendments was sent to interested parties in January, for response by 26 March 2010. Major changes within the draft are:

- a. Direct reference to the GCC *Code of Practice and Standard of Proficiency* to make clear links for users of the guidance
- b. Inclusion of additional and updated information, such as more recent relevant court decisions

- c. The order in which the content of the document is presented, to make the flow more logical
- d. All factors for consideration in respect of each sanction to be numbered, instead of using bullet points.

Council noted the contents of the draft.

Health & Safety Executive Radiation Team

In a recent meeting with the Chief Executive, the HSE's specialist inspectors explained the following concerns that had been identified during visits to some x-ray units in chiropractic practices

- lack of understanding of the role of HSE and the powers of its inspectors
- poor standards of training in radiation protection
- failure to designate radiation controlled areas
- poor quality assurance of x-ray equipment

HSE will be producing guidance for chiropractors on these issues, which the GCC will distribute direct to all registrants as soon as it is received.

Council agreed that all possible actions should be taken to assist the HSE in raising awareness by the profession and education providers.

Date of next meeting: 12 May 2010