

The Test of Competence

Policy and Procedure on Plagiarism and Collusion

Introduction

This policy applies to candidates taking the Test of Competence (TOC).

The purpose of this policy is to set out the consequences of plagiarism or collusion in the TOC process, and procedures to be followed if either is identified.

Definitions of plagiarism and collusion.

Plagiarism is the attempt made by a candidate to pass any part of their submitted application off as their own work when this has been copied from an alternative source.

Collusion is where the candidate has been working with another/others to copy work, or for them to copy theirs, and in either case for this to be submitted as their own work.

Consequences of suspected plagiarism and/or collusion.

Candidates are expected via the TOC process to demonstrate that they meet the requirements of The GCC Code. (Standards of conduct, performance, and ethics for chiropractors). Principle B of The Code states:

“You must act with honesty and integrity at all times and uphold high standards of professional conduct and personal behaviour to ensure public confidence in the profession”.

Candidates are expected to submit only their own work, which is explicitly stated within the TOC Evidence of Practice form (EPQ), and the candidate is required to sign a declaration that this is their own work at the end of the EPQ.

The panel will decide whether the candidate meets the requirements as set out in The Code, noting on the outcome report any suspected plagiarism or collusion. The Registrar will be informed and decide, based on the evidence, what action they wish to take.

Procedure

Candidates at the start of the assessment interview are asked to confirm that the Evidence of Practice Questionnaire is their own work. Should the panel suspect collusion and/or plagiarism the candidate will be explicitly asked whether they have worked with others or copied from others at their interview.

The assessment will then continue as normal.

The panel will discuss at the end of the assessment, on the balance of probability, whether plagiarism or collusion has occurred and note on the assessment outcome report, along with the result of the TOC assessment.

Where a candidate needs to provide further evidence, they will be permitted to do so following current procedures and therefore either pass or fail the TOC following a review of the further evidence submitted. The matter will then be considered as a pass.

Should the candidate pass, they will be able to apply for registration. The Registrar will, at that point, raise the issue as a matter of character with the registration applicant before making a decision. Where registration is refused the applicant may appeal that decision following the registration appeals process.

Where the candidate fails to pass the TOC the Registrar will be notified via the assessment outcome as indicated above. The candidate may re-apply but will have to sign the new EPQ, stating they have not plagiarised or colluded with others in completing the documentation. Additionally, a check will be made comparing the original and subsequent submitted Evidence of Practice Questionnaires by the Chair of the original TOC assessment panel to ensure the newer of the two is completely new. Where that chair is unavailable another chair, who is not chairing the candidate's interview, will be asked to perform the role.

Where the second submitted Evidence of Practice Questionnaire is substantially different to the first, the candidate will be permitted to retake the TOC with a fresh panel who will have no prior knowledge of the previous issue.

Should there be similarities the application will be passed to the Registrar to review and who will make a decision as to how to proceed.

Complaint

There is no formal right of appeal against the panel's decision. However, a complaint can be made to the Registrations Officer in the first instance if it is felt that procedures and processes have not been followed and by following the GCC's complaints procedure as set out at [Test of Competence | GCC \(gcc-uk.org\)](#).

Related policies

If any candidate believes they have been disadvantaged due to an issue in the conduct of their Test of Competence, they should refer to our complaints procedure.