

Council, 27 March 2008

Amendment to the standards of proficiency for radiographers

Executive summary and recommendations

Introduction

Revised standards of proficiency for the first 12 professions became effective on 1 November 2007.

The Society and College of Radiographers has informed the Executive that one of the profession-specific standards for diagnostic radiographers only reflects emerging rather than threshold safe and effective practice. They have argued that the first part of the standard would be met by all education providers but that meeting the second part would cause education providers considerable difficulty.

The standard currently reads:

- be able to assist with ultrasound imaging procedures and perform standard first trimester ultrasound measurements

The Committee is invited to agree to consult on amendment to this standard. The amended standard, if agreed, would read:

- be able to assist with ultrasound imaging procedures

A draft consultation document is attached.

The Education and Training Committee is being asked to consider this paper at its meeting on 26 March 2008.

Decision

The Council is invited to agree:

- to hold a consultation on amending profession-specific standard 2b.4 of the radiographers standards, as outlined in the attached document; and
- the text of the attached consultation document.

If agreed, it is anticipated that the consultation would take place between April and July 2008. The responses might then be considered at the Education and Training Committee's meeting on 25 September 2008, and by the Council at a subsequent meeting.

Background information

Article 3 (14) requires the Council to consult prior to establishing any standards.

Resource implications

- Mailing consultation document
- Analysing consultation responses

Financial implications

- Mailing consultation document
- Re-printing radiographers standards of proficiency

Appendices

None

Date of paper

14 March 2008

Date	Ver.	Dept/Cmte	Doc Type	Title	Status	Int. Aud.
2008-01-02	a	POL	PPR	Council - Amendment to RA SOPs 27.03.08	Final DD: None	Public RD: None

Consultation on amendments to the standards of proficiency for radiographers

Introduction

We are consulting on an amendment to a profession-specific standard in the standards of proficiency for radiographers

Standards of proficiency

The standards of proficiency are threshold competence standards for the safe and effective practice of each of the professions we regulate. Their primary role is as standards for entry to the Register. They describe the minimum skills and knowledge necessary to become registered.

We visit education providers to ensure that they meet our standards of education and training and that their programmes allow their students to meet the standards of proficiency. Once a programme is approved, someone successfully completing that programme is eligible to apply for registration.

A profession-specific standard in standard 2b.4 for diagnostic radiographers only reads:

- be able to assist with ultrasound imaging procedures and perform standard first trimester ultrasound measurements

We have received feedback which suggests that this standard does not reflect current practice and is not appropriate as a requirement for threshold safe and effective practice at this time. This feedback has suggested that education providers would be able to meet the first part of the standard. However, it has been argued that the second part of the standard relates to emerging practice only and that insufficient numbers of clinical placements exist in pre-registration education and training to allow this standard to be met.

Our proposals

Whilst we try to avoid making frequent changes to the standards, we keep them under regular review to ensure that they remain relevant and do not unnecessarily act as a barrier to education providers and others. In light of the feedback we have received, we are proposing that this standard should be amended.

The amended standard, if agreed, would read:

- be able to assist with ultrasound imaging procedures

Your comments

We would welcome your views about the proposed changes.

This consultation will put our proposals before a wide range of stakeholders including professional bodies, higher education institutions and others with an interest in our work. The consultation will run until **day/month/year**.

If you would like to respond to this consultation, please send this response to:

Standard of proficiency consultation – radiographers
Policy and Standards department
Health Professions Council
Park House
184 Kennington Park Road
London
SE11 4BU

Email: consultation@hpc-uk.org

Website: www.hpc-uk.org/aboutus/consultations

We will publish on our website a summary of the responses we receive, and the decisions we have taken as a result.

If you would prefer your response not be made public, please indicate this when you respond.

We look forward to receiving your comments.

Yours faithfully

Eileen Thornton
Chair of the Education and Training Committee