

Council, 10 February 2009

Consultation on an amendment to the standard five of the Standards for Continuing Professional Development

Executive summary and recommendations

### **Introduction**

At the Council's meeting on 11 December 2008, the Council agreed to consult on a minor amendment to the Standards for Continuing Professional Development (CPD).

It is proposed to amend standard five of these standards to make it clear that registrants who are selected to participate in a CPD audit are required to submit a written profile of their own work.

The Council agreed that the Chair of the Education and Training Committee would be asked to agree and recommend the consultation document to the Council by Chair's action. A verbal update will be provided at this meeting.

A draft consultation document is attached.

If agreed, the consultation would take place between 11 February 2009 and 11 May 2009, with the results coming back to the Council at its meeting on 20 May 2009.

### **Decision**

The Council is invited to approve the attached document for consultation.

### **Background information**

Paper considered by the Council at its meeting on 11 December 2008:  
[http://www.hpc-uk.org/assets/documents/10002610council\\_20081211\\_tabledpaper.pdf](http://www.hpc-uk.org/assets/documents/10002610council_20081211_tabledpaper.pdf)

### **Resource implications**

- Printing and mailing consultation document
- Analysing consultation responses

If a change to the standard is agreed:

- Arranging for reprinting of CPD publications in line with next scheduled print run
- Arranging for updates to online media (including CPD DVD)

## **Financial implications**

- Printing and mailing consultation document

If a change to the standard is agreed:

- Reprinting of CPD publications, in line with next scheduled print run
- Update to CPD DVD

## **Financial implications**

None

## **Appendices**

None

## **Date of paper**

27 January 2009

## **DRAFT**

# **Consultation on an amendment to the Health Professions Council Standards for Continuing Professional Development**

## **Introduction**

We are consulting on a proposed amendment to standard five of our Standards for Continuing Professional Development.

## **About us**

We are the Health Professions Council (HPC). We are a regulator of health professionals and our job is to protect the health and wellbeing of people who use the services of the health professionals registered with us.

To protect the public, we set standards that health professionals must meet. Our standards cover health professionals' education and training, behaviour, professional skills, and their health. We publish a register of health professionals who meet our standards.

Health professionals on our register are called 'registrants'. If registrants do not meet our standards, we can take action against them which may include removing them from the Register so that they can no longer practise.

## **Standards for Continuing Professional Development**

The Standards for Continuing Professional Development (CPD) became effective on 1 July 2006.

Our existing standards say that registrants must:

1. maintain a continuous, up-to-date and accurate record of their CPD activities;
2. demonstrate that their CPD activities are a mixture of learning activities relevant to current or future practice;
3. seek to ensure that their CPD has contributed to the quality of their practice and service delivery;
4. seek to ensure that their CPD benefits the service user; and
5. present a written profile containing evidence of their CPD upon request.'

From May 2008, each time a profession renews its registration we will audit a random sample of registrants and ask them to submit a written profile explaining how they have met the standards for CPD, supported by some evidence of their CPD activities.

Audits take place each time a profession renews its registration (every two years). The first two professions to be audited were chiropodists / podiatrists and operating department practitioners.

For more information about the CPD standards and CPD audits, please see our website: [www.hpc-uk.org/registrants/cpd/](http://www.hpc-uk.org/registrants/cpd/)

### **Our proposed amendment**

Whilst we try to avoid making frequent changes to our standards, we keep them under regular review to ensure that they remain relevant and appropriate.

We are proposing a small amendment to standard five of the Standards for Continuing Professional Development. This standard asks a registrant to fill in a written profile containing evidence of their CPD on request.

We know that the vast majority of registrants asked to fill in a profile do so in good faith, putting together their own profile. However, during the recent audits we identified a very small number of registrants who had not acted in this way and instead had asked third parties to write their CPD profiles on their behalf.

We strongly believe that this is not in the spirit of the CPD standards and are proposing a small amendment to standard five to make it clear that a profile must be a registrant's own work. We propose that the new standard should read:

Registrants must: ...

*'upon request, present a written profile (which must be their own work and supported by evidence) explaining how they have met the standards for CPD'*

The proposed change to this standard is intended to make clear our requirements and prevent the writing of profiles by third parties, contrary to the spirit of the CPD standards. However, it is not intended that this should prevent registrants from seeking the support and guidance of their colleagues if they are asked to submit a profile.

As this is a minor amendment to one standard, and we believe that the vast majority of registrants would already participate in the forthcoming audits in good faith, we are proposing that the change to this standard should become effective in time for the next round of CPD audits, commencing in June 2009.

### **Your comments**

We would welcome your comments on the proposed change to standard five of the Standards for Continuing Professional Development.

This consultation will put our proposals before a range of stakeholders including professional bodies.

The consultation will run until **11 May 2009**.

This document is available to download from our website and available in hard copy on request.

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

Amendment to Standards for CPD  
Policy and Standards Department  
Health Professions Council  
Park House  
184 Kennington Park Road  
London  
SE11 4BU  
Email: [consultation@hpc-uk.org](mailto:consultation@hpc-uk.org)  
Website: [www.hpc-uk.org/aboutus/consultations](http://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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anna van der Gaag". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent initial 'A' and a long, sweeping underline.

Anna van der Gaag  
President