

Chairman's Report

1. Most of the work for the Committee since the last meeting has been on the Standards of Proficiency at item 7 below.
2. As a formality, I will be taking Chairman's Action to approve the recommendation made by the Registration Committee that the " Prescribed Periods " in Part II, 9 (2) (a) of the Health Professions Order should be four years. The Registration Committee's recommendation is attached.
3. I will also be taking Chairman's Action to approve the amendments to the detail of the Registration / Re-Admission form following discussion and legal advice at the Registration Committee.

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MINUTES of the ninth meeting of the Registration Committee of the Health Professions Council held on Thursday 6 March 2003 at Park House, 184 Kennington Park Road, London SE11 4BU.

ITEM 8 OIC – ARTICLE 9 (2) (A)

The Committee noted the comments made in Mr. Bracken's paper entitled "Prescribed Periods". In particular it was noted that under the Health Professions Order Council would provide prescribed time periods under Article (9) 2 and Article 19 (3). These prescribed periods would be included in the draft Registration & Fees Rules.

After discussion it was **AGREED** to recommend to the Education and Training Committee (ETC) that the prescribed period in Article 9 (2) would be 4 years. The Committee discussed the position under Article 19 (3). It was felt that a "Sliding Scale" would be appropriate. It was suggested that an applicant who had not practised for less than two years would not have to undertake additional education and training or experience.

Where an applicant had not practised for between two and four years they would need to refresh their skills and experience by working under supervision for a specified period and undertaking private study to bring their skills and knowledge up to date.

Where an applicant had not practised for four years or more, they would be required to meet current standards of proficiency. A qualification that was more than five years old would be too out-of-date to enable its holder to meet the Standards of Proficiency; such an applicant would need to undertake an approved programme.

The Committee felt that this issue would need to be discussed by the groups referred to at item 7.*

Therefore the Committee did not make a recommendation to the Education and Training Committee about prescribed periods under Article 19 (3).

* After discussion the Committee **AGREED** that appropriate groups who had taken part in drawing up the SoPs would be approached. They would be asked to assist with finalising the drafting of the TOC and to determine the criteria for assessing applicants against the SoPs. (*TOC – Test of Competence, SoP – Standard of Proficiency*)

ITEM 8
ENCL: 6

REGISTRATION COMMITTEE

Prescribed Periods

Articles 9(2) and 19(3) of the Health Professions Order 2001 provides for the Council to prescribe time periods for two specific purposes:

Art. 9(2); to prescribe a period of not more than five years after which an approved qualification held by prospective registrant who has not practised during that period ceases to be valid unless additional education, training or experience is undertaken to bring his or her knowledge and skills up to date; and

Article 19(3) to prescribe a period after which a person who has not practised for that period must undertake additional education, training or experience before being re-admitted to the register.

In both cases 'prescribed' means prescribed in Rules made by the Council and approved by the Privy Council. Therefore the Committee is asked to recommend prescribed periods for the purposes of Articles 9(2) and 19(3) for inclusion in the draft Registration and Fees Rules.

The two prescribed periods do not have to be the same. In my opinion, Article 9(2) should provide for a simple 'cut off' point after which the applicant would need to undertake top up training to meet the then current standards of proficiency, but for Article 19(3) a 'sliding scale' may be more appropriate.

For consistency the point at which a person returning to practice is required under Article 19(3) to undertake top up training of the kind envisaged under Article 9(2) should be the same under both Articles (for example, five years in both cases), but Article 19(3) could be used to prescribe a shorter period which would allow a less onerous "return to practice" training or supervision requirement to be imposed on those practitioners who are returning to work after a break of less than five years.

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Draft

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ITEM 5 REGISTRATION / RE-ADMISSION FORM

Mr. Bracken said that this form was specified in the Rules and would go to the Privy Council with the Rules.

The Committee discussed the contents of the form. Various amendments were suggested and agreed.

It was **AGREED** that the Chairman of the Registration Committee would take Chairman's action to approve the amendments to the form and that the Chairman of the Education and Training Committee would take Chairman's action to sign it off.