

Executive Summary and Recommendations

Introduction

The Education and Training Committee is requested to consider additional UK approved qualifications for those operating department practitioners who hold earlier versions of AODP approved qualifications, and who may or may not have been practising continuously, and who may not be registered with the Association of Operating Department Practitioners (AODP) voluntary register and therefore would not be eligible for automatic transfer to the HPC register.

Decision

1. The Committee is requested to approve the following qualifications for a time limited period i.e. for the duration of the grandparenting period (until 17 October 2006):

- 1.1 The City and Guilds of London Institute 752 (awarded from 1976-1993)
- 1.2 The formal Certificate of Assimilation issued prior to 1980

2. The Committee is requested to approve (in accordance in Article 9.2 (1) for a period of five years from the date of the Register opening:

- 2.1 The Scottish or National Vocational Qualification in Operating Department Practice, Level 3 (effective from 1991-2000).

The Committee is asked to **approve only the qualifications**, not the courses which no longer exist. This will ensure that by approving the qualifications the existing workforce will be able to register.

If someone with these qualifications has been practising throughout or for most of the time since they qualified they will have updated their practice on the job.

If an applicant may not have practised throughout then they must be required to undergo refresher training.

All applicants will be required by HPC to submit documentary evidence as to their practise at the time of application.

There will no longer be any new qualifiers entering through these routes but these qualifications may account for those held by the majority of the current ODP workforce and holders of the qualifications would have been registerable with AODP, and therefore eligible for automatic transfer to HPC's Register.

Background information

These ODPs are likely to apply to HPC for registration under Article 9 (2) of the Health Professions Order, 2001 as holders of UK approved qualifications. They are ineligible to apply under grandparenting (Articles 13 and 9 (1)) as that is for people without approved qualifications.

The difficulty in the past has been the definition of "approved qualification", defined in Schedule 3 of the HPO as having the meaning given to it by Articles 13 and 15, which require the HPC Education and Training Committee to be satisfied that approved qualifications are taken as part of approved courses which confer on persons successfully completing them the standards of proficiency as set by HPC.

These earlier versions of approved qualifications existed prior to HPC, and the ODP standards of proficiency. The Department of Health's lawyers have advised that there is nothing in the requirements of Article 15 which would prevent the Education and Training Committee from retrospectively approving these previous qualifications which were acceptable to AODP for admission to their register, since these will have met the standards required at the time they were extant.

This together with Article 9 which requires applicants to satisfy anything else the Education and Training Committee may seek [such as evidence of good character, good health, and any refresher training necessary for those who may not have been in continuous practice (Article 19(3) requirements)] which should enable HPC to register such applicants who successfully meet the requirements. Once these applicants are registered they will be subject to HPC's CPD requirements like any other registrant.

Resource implications

None.

Financial implications

None.

Background papers

None.

Appendices

None.