

Education and Training Committee – 8 June 2010

Hearing Aid Dispensers – list of approved programmes update

Executive summary and recommendations

This paper seeks to amend the list of approved programmes for hearing aid dispensers, which became effective from the date of the register opening (1 April 2010). The Education and Training Committee is asked to the amendments to the list of currently approved programmes as well as the list of programmes which were approved historically for specific periods.

Introduction

Article 15(8) of the Health Professions Order provides that:

- “(8) The Council shall maintain and publish a list of the courses of education and training, qualifications and institutions –
- (a) which are for the time being approved under this Order: or
 - (b) which have been approved under this Order but which are no longer approved, together with a record of the periods in respect of which they were approved.”

Paragraphs (1) and (2) of Article 6 of the Health Care and Associated Professions (Hearing Aid Dispensers) Order 2009 provides that:

“(1) The HPC and the HAC shall enter into arrangements (which may include financial arrangements) to facilitate the introduction of arrangements for the regulation of hearing aid dispensers by the HPC arising out of this Order.”

“(2) The arrangements entered into under paragraph (1) shall include arrangements to ensure that all the names in the HAC register which are to be entered in the HPC register with effect from 1st April 2010 are so entered.”

In turn, paragraph 7 of the Health Care and Associated Professions (Hearing Aid Dispensers) Order 2009 outlines amendments to paragraph 1A of schedule 1(6) of the Health Professions Order 2001. The amendment of schedule 1(6) refers to the following definition:

“the HAC Register” means the register of dispensers of hearing aids maintained by the Hearing Aid Council under section 2(1)(a) of the Hearing Aid Council Act 1968.”.

Therefore, it is necessary for the Committee to maintain and publish lists of approved programmes for hearing aid dispensers. These lists should take into consideration the register transfer arrangements outlined above.

Reason for updates

The Hearing Aid Council have provided updated information in relation to two currently approved programmes and two historically approved programmes. In both instances, the programmes were approved by the Hearing Aid Council before 1 April 2010 but omitted from lists provided to the Education and Training Committee on 10 March 2010.

In the case of the currently approved programmes, Hearing Aid Council approval was only granted following the meeting of the Education and Training Committee on 10 March 2010.

In the case of the historically approved programmes, the Hearing Aid Council has provided new documentary evidence to illustrate that a version of the aptitude tests delivered by De Montfort University and Anglia Ruskin University were approved for a single assessment on 10 February 2010. It was previously understood that the individuals who successfully completed these aptitude tests would receive documentary evidence of eligibility to apply to the Hearing Aid Council register from the Hearing Aid Council. However, in practice a letter is issued from the respective education providers. As a result of this, a new entry has been made on the list of historically approved programmes to make clear the different requirements for documentary evidence to support application dependent on the cohort dates of candidates.

Decision

The Committee is asked to agree the following:

- To grant open ended approval to the programmes outlined in appendix 1
- To approve the programmes for the historical periods outlined in appendix 2
- To confirm that the programmes outlined in appendix 2 are no longer approved;
- To update the appropriate lists of approved programmes; and
- To agree that the above decisions became effective from the date of the register opening (1 April 2010)

Background information

None

Resource implications

Accounted for in 2009-2010 Education work plan and budget.

Financial implications

Accounted for in 2009-2010 Education work plan and budget.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – List of currently approved programmes

Appendix 2 – List of historically approved programmes

Date of paper

24 May 2010

Appendix 1 – List of currently approved programmes

EP NAME	VALIDTOR	PROGRAMME NAME	MODE OF STUDY
Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh	Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh	Diploma in Higher Education Hearing Aid Audiology	FT
Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh	Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh	Diploma in Higher Education Hearing Aid Audiology	PT

Appendix 2 – List of historically approved programmes

EP NAME	VALIDTOR	PROGRAMME NAME	MODE OF STUDY	EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT APPLICATION
Anglia Ruskin	Hearing Aid Council	Aptitude Test	N/A	Certified copy of letter from education provider stating successful completion of the aptitude test
De Montfort University	Hearing Aid Council	Aptitude Test	N/A	Certified copy of letter from education provider stating successful completion of the aptitude test