

Education and Training Committee, 12 June 2012

Annotation of the Register – qualification in podiatric surgery

Executive summary and recommendations

Introduction

We have powers to annotate the Register. The Education and Training Committee and Council agreed that we should annotate the Certificate of Completion in Podiatric Surgical Training on our Register.

This paper identifies key areas for implementing the decision and the approach the Executive proposes to take in setting standards. The Executive will bring a detailed timetable to the ETC meeting in September.

Decision

This paper is to note, no decision is required.

Background information

The Committee last considered a paper on this topic at its meeting in March 2012. The paper can be found here: <http://www.hpc-uk.org/aboutus/committees/archive/index.asp?id=587> (enclosure 10).

Resource implications

The resource implications of the decision to annotate the Register include work to set the standards, approve the programme and any amendments to our registration databases. The resource implications will be accounted for in relevant departmental workplans for 2013-2014 as appropriate.

Financial implications

The financial implications include the costs associated with consulting on standards as well as any technology changes. The financial implications will be accounted for in relevant departmental budgets for 2013-2014 as appropriate.

Appendices

None

Date of paper

29 May 2012

Annotation of the Register – qualification linked to practice in podiatric surgery¹

1. Introduction

- 1.1 At their meetings in March and May respectively, the Education and Training Committee and Council agreed that we should annotate the Register with the qualification in podiatric surgery.
- 1.2 This paper identifies key areas for implementing the decision and the approach the Executive proposes to take in setting standards. The Executive will bring a detailed timetable to the ETC meeting in September.

About podiatric surgery training

- 1.3 A person normally qualifies as podiatric surgeon by undertaking the following training:
 - HPC approved pre-registration bachelors degree leading to HPC registration as a chiropodist / podiatrist.
 - A masters level programme in the theory of podiatric surgery.
 - A minimum of two years surgery training following completion of the masters level programme in the theory of podiatric surgery.
- 1.4 Successful completion of the training leads to fellowship of the Society of Chiropodists and Podiatrists Faculty of Podiatric Surgery. Employers usually require this qualification for employment in positions as a podiatric surgeon. In the NHS, they would be employed as specialist registrars in podiatric surgery. These posts usually last for three years and allow the podiatric surgeon to develop their skills and experience.
- 1.5 At the end of the 3 years, the podiatric surgeon submits information to the Faculty of Podiatric surgery for the award of the Certificate of Completion in Podiatric Surgical Training (CCPST). Completion of the qualification means that the podiatric surgeon can apply for consultant posts (although some consultant podiatric surgeons will not have this qualification).
- 1.6 The Committee and Council have agreed that we should annotate the Certificate of Completion in Podiatric Surgical Training (CCPST).

¹ This paper uses the title 'podiatric surgeon' as that is the title used within the qualification. It is recognised that there are ongoing discussions about the title.

2. Key areas of implementation

- 2.1 In order for us to annotate the Register, we must:
- set standards for the annotation;
 - approve the education programme(s) linked to the annotation;
 - amend our registrations process and system to allow us to record the annotation; and
 - communicate the annotation to stakeholders (including providing information on our website linked to the online Register).
- 2.2 Each of the areas identified above will carry resource implications for the relevant departments. It is important therefore, that relevant departments have sufficient time to plan for and carry out this work.
- 2.3 The Executive will bring a detailed timetable setting out key areas of work to the ETC meeting in September.

Changes to Net Regulate

- 2.4 Each year we plan a number of changes to Net Regulate, our registration system. One of the changes for implementation in 2012-2013 is to give us the ability to record annotations on Net Regulate without needing to commission our external IT suppliers to build each annotation separately.
- 2.5 This change will reduce the impact of the annotation on the organisation and particularly on the Registration and IT departments.

Stakeholders

- 2.6 It is important that we involve stakeholders as we work to implement our decision. Key stakeholders in this area include:
- The Society of Chiropractors and Podiatrists (including the Faculty Surgery Board, College of Podiatrists)
 - The Royal College of Surgeons of England
 - The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh
 - Department of Health (across the UK)
- 2.7 This list is not designed to be exhaustive and the Executive will involve other stakeholders as appropriate.
- 2.8 NHS Education for Scotland has established a project board looking to develop podiatric surgery education within Scotland. The Executive are members of the project board so that we can take account of developments in Scotland appropriately.

3. Approach to setting standards

- 3.1 The Health Professions Order gives us the powers to set the standards of education and training for qualifications we annotate on the Register but does not give us express powers to produce standards of proficiency for post-registration qualifications.
- 3.2 However, the standards of education and training are described in the Order as the standards necessary to achieve the standards of proficiency which the Council has set. Therefore, although the legislation does not give express powers to produce standards of proficiency for post-registration qualifications, the definition of standards of education and training means that we can produce the equivalent of standards of proficiency for post-registration qualifications.
- 3.3 The Executive suggests that a practical solution to this issue would be to produce standards of education and training and standards of proficiency for post-registration qualifications which can sit within a single, stand alone document.
- 3.4 The Executive will draw on existing standards and frameworks, including the documents produced by the Society, as well as the work by NHS Education for Scotland, to prepare the standards for podiatric surgery. The Executive will work with relevant stakeholders, including those listed in paragraph 2.6 above, to prepare the draft standards. It is expected that work to draft the standards will begin in Spring 2013.