

6 March 2017

Health and Care Professions Council response to Optical Confederation consultation on ‘Multi-disciplinary professional standards for refractive surgery providers and clinical teams’

1. Introduction

1.1 The Health and Care Professions Council is a statutory UK-wide regulator of health, social work, and psychological professions governed by the Health and Social Work Professions Order 2001. We regulate 16 professions, including clinical scientists. We maintain a register of professionals, set standards for entry to our register, approve education and training programmes for registration and deal with concerns where a professional may not be fit to practise.

2. Our comments

- 2.1 We welcome the opportunity to respond to the Optical Confederation’s consultation. We have not responded to the specific consultation questions as we consider that health professionals and others in the sector will be better placed to comment on the specific content.
- 2.3 We support the aims behind the proposed standards and support the conclusion in the document that the principles of the General Medical Council’s guidance are sound, and can be applied more widely to refractive surgery providers and clinical teams.
- 2.4 We support the standards requiring clinical scientists to meet our CPD standards, to participate in team audit and case reviews and to participate in annual appraisals as required by their employers (2.6). We further support the focus on providing patients with information in a form they can easily understand, and, specifically, the requirement that (written) information should be in plain English approved by an independent body (6.5). Wherever possible, our guidance has been crystal marked by the Plain English campaign, and this is an effective way of ensuring accessibility to as wide an audience as possible.
- 2.5 We hope that you find these comments useful. Should you wish to discuss any of our comments then please do not hesitate to contact us.