

Executive Summary and Recommendations

Introduction

The Health Professions Council anticipates that a number of aspirant groups within healthcare science will seek regulation over the next four years. It was agreed that in order to manage the process the whole group of healthcare scientists should be split and the first group to be considered would include clinical perfusion scientists, clinical physiologists, clinical technologists and medical illustrators.

Decision

Council agreed that a final decision would be made on the first group of healthcare scientists in autumn 2004.

The Council is asked to agree the following:

- 1. To recommend to the Secretary of State for Health that the clinical technologists be regulated under the generic heading of Healthcare Scientists subject to the applicant professional body, VRCT in conjunction with the Department of Health reviewing and agreeing the routes of entry into the profession and that they meet the Standards of Proficiency.**
- 2. To recommend to the Secretary of State for Health that the clinical perfusionists be regulated under the generic heading of Healthcare Scientists following the external quality assurance of the entry qualification.**
- 3. To recommend to the Secretary of State for Health that the clinical physiologists be regulated under the generic heading of Healthcare Scientists subject to the applicant professional body, RCCP in conjunction with the Department of Health ensuring that the routes of entry are harmonized and written into the legislation prior to the opening of the HPC Register.**
- 4. To recommend to the Secretary of State for Health that the medical illustrators be regulated under the generic heading of Healthcare Scientists.**

Background information

Council considered the following applications for regulation under the heading **healthcare scientists**:

<i>Council meeting</i>	<i>Aspirant Group</i>
September 2003	Society of Clinical Perfusion Scientists of Great Britain and Ireland (SCPSGBI)
October 2003	Registration Council for Clinical Physiologists (RCCP)
May 2004	Voluntary Register of Clinical Technologists (VRCT)
September 2004	Institute of Medical Illustrators (IMI).

Each application was considered against the criteria for assessing aspirant groups, and conditions were set out for the SCPSGBI and the VRCT as follows and as such, **provisional recommendations** were made to the Secretary of State:

Aspirant Group	Conditions set
Society of Clinical Perfusion Scientists of Great Britain and Ireland (SCPSGBI)	HPC identified further work required by the SCPSGBI on establishing independently accredited training and assessment for both UK and internationally trained perfusionists who wish to work in the UK.
Voluntary Register of Clinical Technologists (VRCT)	The VRCT submit further evidence to satisfy HPC that an appropriate Standard of Proficiency can be established for clinical technologists as a single profession.

Although no conditions were set by Council on the RCCP's application it was noted that RCCP would need to consider the routes of entry for clinical physiologists and audiologists being harmonized before the profession was admitted onto the HPC Register and that this would be written into the Department of Health's consultation paper and the subsequent legislation.

There were no conditions set on the application submitted by the Institute of Medical Illustrators.

Representatives of the SCPSGBI, VRCT and RCCP met with executive staff of the Department of Health to discuss and resolve the conditions set and their responses appear as *appendices 1, 2 and 3*.

Resource implications

The HPC will be required to carry out a consultation following the Department of Health's consultation on the proposed changes to the Health Professions Order, 2001, approval by both Houses of Parliament and the Scottish Parliament on the consequential changes to registration in order to bring into statutory regulation the first group of healthcare scientists by the Council, as follows:

HPC will need to make consequential changes to the Health Professions Council (Registration) Rules 200X (*actual date to be inserted*) and, in accordance with the Health Professions Order 2001, to consult on those changes.

The bulk of the changes will be to give effect to the Health Professions (Healthcare Scientists) Order 200X (*actual date to be inserted*).

The Council will need to conduct a 4 week or 6 week consultation to put its proposals before a wide range of stakeholders including bodies representing currently regulated professionals, aspirant professions, other professional bodies, and government departments.

Financial implications

The financial costs should be incorporated into the 2005/6 budget to cover the following:

1. Costs of carrying out the consequential consultation;
2. IT costs of admitting a new profession onto the Register;
3. Communications costs to potential registrants and other relevant stakeholders.

Background papers

None.

Appendices

Appendix 1 Letter from the Registrar of the Voluntary Register of Clinical Technologists dated 26th September 2004

Appendix 2 Letter from the Chairman of the Society of Clinical Perfusion Scientists of Great Britain and Ireland dated 20th September 2004

Appendix 3 Joint Statement of intent dated 29th September 2004 from the Department of Health and the Chairman of the Registration Council for Clinical Physiologists, stating that:

Appendix 3 "The Department of Health and the RCCP continue to work on the routes of entry leading up to and following the opening of the relevant part of the Register. "