

Standards of Proficiency Review 2005

Professional bodies' input; an overview

The professional bodies will have an important role to play in the review of the Standards of Proficiency. Their expertise and work means that they can give detailed, profession-specific input into the detailed standards, and update the PLG on any areas which they feel have changed since 2003, or areas where the standards could be improved.

A letter about a separate project (CPD guidance) was written to the Chief Executive of the professional bodies in August, and in this letter was an 'early warning' of the SOPs review, to give the professional bodies notice. It was also discussed at an Allied Health Professions Federation Education and Practice Leads meeting in September.

It is proposed that the next step should be an email to the nominated contacts (where appropriate) with the attached explanatory information about the project, and a timeframe for completion of the information.

Some professional bodies may wish to set up a group to consider the standards, others may ask staff members, or a committee to complete the information. Others may consult their membership. It is suggested that the professional bodies, who have differing levels of resources available to them, are best placed to decide how they should compile their information for the PLG. There is space on the form, however, so that if a professional body has consulted widely and its input reflects the opinions of a wide variety of people from across the profession, the PLG can be made aware of this, and take it into account.

The attached pages are draft information which it is suggested should be sent to professional bodies.

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Professional bodies and the Standards of Proficiency review

Introduction

We established the Standards of Proficiency for the 12 original professions that we regulate in 2003. We said that we would not change these standards during the transitional arrangements for registration (the ‘grandparenting’ period), but that we would review them in the future.

The Council is now reviewing the standards. To do this, it has established a Professional Liaison Group (PLG). This group will consider evidence from a variety of individuals and stakeholders with knowledge of how the standards are working, how well they relate to registrants’ practice, and whether they need to be amended.

This is why we are writing to professional bodies for the original 12 professions, to ask for your ideas on whether or how the standards should be amended.

About the standards

We have set the Standards of Proficiency in order to determine the threshold professional skills that are necessary in order to register with us. They are set at the level that is necessary in order to protect the public.

What we would like to know from you

When you are putting together your answer, the more information you can give us about why you have this opinion about the standards, the more helpful this will be. Because the Standards of Proficiency are so central to how the HPC and the Register work, the PLG will be looking for strong evidence in order to assure itself that a change is necessary. For example, if you feel that an area of your profession is missing from the SOPs, and an additional standard is needed, it would be helpful if this could be supplemented with information on whether approved programmes cover this area, whether this reflects a recent change in your profession, and any further supporting information you can give us.

Please feel free to put together your answers to these questions in the way that you feel is best for your profession, and most convenient to your organisation. If you have put together a group to consider the standards, or if you have asked your members, please give us brief information about this in answer to question 4 – this will be very helpful to the PLG in considering your input.

If there is additional information that you would like to give us, please do attach this to your responses, or send it in separately.

What happens next

The PLG will look at the responses we receive from professional bodies, and will also consider other pieces of evidence about how the standards work, and will draw upon all of this information in making its recommendations to the Council.

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If the standards need to be amended, this will be the subject of a consultation.

During the consultation your organisation would also have the opportunity to respond to any proposals, and we would welcome your input at this stage of the process, as well.

If you are able to assist with this work, please could you send your response to info@hpc-uk.org by XX/XX/05.

We are very grateful for your help with this important review.

Finding out more about the review

If you have any questions about the project being undertaken, please don't hesitate to contact the Policy and Standards team at HPC:

Policy & Standards,
Health Professions Council,
Park House,
184 Kennington Park Road,
London,
SE11 4BU

Rachel Tripp, Policy Manager
rachel.tripp@hpc-uk.org
0207 8409 760

Information about the work of the professional liaison group will be posted on the HPC's website here:

www.hpc-uk.org/aboutus/professionalliaisongroups/sops/

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Professional bodies' input

Section 1. Your details

1.1 Organisation name Type your organisation's name here

1.2 Profession Please select your profession

1.3 Your name Please type your name here

1.4 Your job title / position Please type your job title / position here

1.5 Your contact details We may need to contact you, to discuss part of your response, or to ask questions. We would therefore be grateful if you could give us your contact details, ie: phone number and email address

1.6 Current membership of your organisation

1.7 If you need to give explanatory notes about your membership (ie: break-down into student membership, association membership, retired membership, or similar) please do so here:

Please type your response in here. This box will expand as you type into it.

Section 2. The standards

2.1 Do any of the generic or detailed generic standards not apply to a specific profession and therefore need removing?

Please type your response in here. This box will expand as you type into it.

2.2 Do any of the generic or detailed generic standards need further detail adding to them?

Please type your response in here. This box will expand as you type into it.

2.3 Are each of the profession-specific standards sufficiently detailed and clear? (i.e. are there profession specific standards in all cases where there is a specific need?)

Please type your response in here. This box will expand as you type into it.

Section 3. Your answers

3.1 If you would like to give information about how you put together the answers (eg: working group, consultation with members, discussion on relevant committee) you have given above, please do so here. This will be very useful background information for the PLG when considering your response.

Please type your response in here. This box will expand as you type into it.

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