

Voluntary Register of Clinical Technologists

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Dear Registrant

VOLUNTARY REGISTER OF CLINICAL TECHNOLOGISTS – AN UPDATE

We wrote to you in December 2005 updating you on progress with the regulation process. At the time we were fairly confident that regulation would occur by December 2006. Unfortunately this has proved to be an entirely over-optimistic prediction as a significant delay was introduced as a result of the aftermath of the Shipman Inquiry. This was highly critical of the General Medical Council and the broader arrangements for medical regulation. Consequently, Lord Warner commissioned a review of medical regulation. Shortly thereafter, the Department of Health elected to conduct a parallel review of the arrangements in place for the regulation of the other clinical professions in order to provide consistency of approach and in recognition of the blurring of traditional job roles in healthcare.

The review of medical regulation was conducted by Sir Liam Donaldson, Chief Medical Officer for England. His report, *Good doctors, safer patients*; along with the parallel departmental review of non-medical regulation, focuses upon the protection of the interests and safety of patients. The Department of Health now invites views and comments on these proposals. You can find more information at their web site: www.dh.gov.uk.

As a result of this delay the Department of Health have made the following statement:

“Existing commitments to legislate by Section 60 Order will be honoured and this includes healthcare scientists. Following the publication of the Review of Non-Medical Regulation, you will be aware that consultation on the proposals closes on 10 November and you are encouraged to respond. The exact timetable for publication of the HCS consultation document will be determined once the Non-Medical Review consultation closes, but will nevertheless be dependent upon outstanding necessary work being completed. We will be arranging follow up meetings with aspirant groups in due course.”

We await the follow-up meetings. In the meantime we have completed some further work, as follows:

1. We have published the Scope of Practice for the Clinical Technologist profession. A copy of which can be obtained from the IPEM web site. This document describes the scope of practice for the seven identified Clinical Technologist disciplines:
 1. Medical Engineering Technologist
 2. Nuclear Medicine Technologist
 3. Radiation Engineering Technologist
 4. Radiation Physics Technologist
 5. Radiotherapy Physics Technologist
 6. Rehabilitation Engineering Technologist
 7. Renal Technologist
2. We have reviewed the entry criteria for the register and have made the following change:

The Grandparenting provision will not be available to any individual who commences first employment as a Clinical Technologists on or after 1st January 2007. Those individuals will only be able to join the Register if they fulfil the requirements of the primary criterion which is: Successful completion of an approved vocational degree programme, or, an approved training scheme.

All individuals who commence first employment before 1st January 2007 will continue to have access to the Grandparenting provision; however, it should be stressed that the recommended route to the Register is via the primary criterion.

This change has come about because there is now a specific need to ensure that all new entrants to the profession undergo a properly structured and assessed education and training programme. As a result, it will be incumbent on employers of Clinical Technologists to ensure that they properly fund and resource their education and training.

We urge you to point out this change to your employer.

3. We are currently reviewing the structure of the VRCT administration and its relationship with the professional bodies. We expect to publish proposals on the way the VRCT operates in the very near future. If you have any questions or comments to make on this or any other subject you are urged to write to the Registrar.
4. The VRCT information pages on the IPEM web site have recently been updated.

We thank you for your continuing support and will write to you again to update you on progress when the 2007 subscriptions are due.

Yours sincerely

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The Voluntary Register of Clinical Technologists is administered by the Institute of Physics and Engineering in Medicine in partnership with the Association of Renal Technologists and the Institution of Engineering and Technology

