

# Accredited Registers

## Notification of Change

Registration Council of Clinical Physiologists  
(RCCP)

May 2019

# Contents

Background .....	3
Outcome .....	5
Assessment against the Standards for Accredited Registers .....	6
Share your experience .....	9
Impact assessment.....	10
Equality duty under the Equality Act 2010 .....	10

## About the Registration Council for Clinical Physiologists

The Registration Council for Clinical Physiologists (RCCP) registers Clinical Physiologists in the following disciplines:

- Audiologists/Hearing Therapists
- Neurophysiologists
- Cardiac Physiologist
- Respiratory Physiologist
- Gastro-Intestinal Physiologist
- Sleep Physiologists

Its work includes:

- Setting and maintaining standards of practise and conduct
- Maintaining a register of qualified professionals
- Assuring the quality of education and training
- Requiring registrants to keep their skills up to date through continuing professional development
- Handling complaints and concerns raised against registrants and issuing sanctions where appropriate.

As of January 2019, there were 5,734 registrants on RCCP's register. RCCP was first accredited on 13 March 2018.

## Background

The Professional Standards Authority accredits registers of people working in a variety of health and social care occupations not regulated by law. To be accredited, organisations holding such registers must prove that they meet our demanding [Standards for Accredited Registers](#) (the Standards). Accreditation is reviewed every twelve months.

Once accreditation has been granted, significant changes to an Accredited Register need to be assessed by the Authority to ensure ongoing compliance with the Accreditation Standards. These are submitted to the Authority as a notification of change.

Changes can be approved by a Moderator in cases where compliance with the Standards are not affected by the change. A Moderator can issue Recommendations and note Achievements.

Where concerns do exist, or information is not clear, a targeted review will be initiated by a Moderator. The outcome of this review is assessed by an Accreditation Panel, who can decide to approve the change or approve the change with conditions. Panels may also issue Recommendations and note Achievements.

- **Condition** – Changes that must be made within a specified timeframe to maintain accreditation
- **Recommendation** – Actions that would improve practice and benefit the operation of the register, but do not need to be completed for compliance with the Standards to be maintained. Implementation of recommendations will be reviewed at annual renewal
- **Achievement** – Areas where a register has demonstrated a positive impact on one of the four pillars of the programme; protection, choice, confidence and quality.

## Notification of Change

RCCP was first accredited in March 2018. The RCCP holds a register of Clinical Physiologists practising in the UK in one of following six disciplines:

- Audiology which includes Hearing Therapists as a sub-group
- Cardiac Physiology
- Gastro-intestinal Physiology
- Neurophysiology
- Respiratory Physiology
- Sleep Physiology.

RCCP are proposing to add Educational Audiologists as a sub-group to the Audiology discipline on its register for Clinical Physiologists. RCCP describes Educational Audiologists as being 'involved in the monitoring of hearing loss and review of hearing aids (in or liaising with the Hospital's Audiology department), giving advice to families and schools, and providing the assessment of educational progress related to the child's audiological status and learning environment. Educational Audiologists measure and report on the acoustics of learning areas and provision of Radio Hearing Aids.' RCCP notes that an Educational Audiologist 'is a specialist' that is 'required to have a specialist qualification to work with children.'

Educational Audiologists would be expected to abide by RCCP's *Standards of Character, Standards of Proficiency, Standards of Continuing Professional Development* and the *Code of Conduct* which can be found on RCCP's [website](#). They would also be subject to RCCP's complaints procedure.

There is one [MSc/PG Diploma](#) course which is based on the British Association of Educational Audiologists (BAEA) competencies, this has been accredited by the RCCP. The BAEA is the professional body for Educational Audiologists and if approved, representatives will sit on RCCP's Council and all relevant committees. Graduates of the accredited course will be eligible to join RCCP's register, this route opened in July 2018 following RCCP's accreditation of the course. RCCP will start accepting applicants via this route if the change is approved and Educational Audiologists become part of its Accredited Register. There are two other routes of entry, the 'Standard registration' which will open in 2020 and is for applicants who have two years' experience following the completion of an accredited course and the equivalence route which will be open to other Educational Audiologists who have at least six years' experience working as an Educational Audiologist (this can include experience of working as a Teacher of Deaf).

RCCP noted that many of the risks associated with the practice of Educational Audiology are similar to those already within its risk matrix. RCCP highlighted the impact of mis-communication and mis-interpretation of test results on a deaf child's development as specific risks and noted that it had included risks relating to safeguarding in its risk matrix.

## Outcome

The Moderator decided that the changes would not impact adversely on RCCP's compliance with the *Standards for Accredited Registers* so approved the change.

The change was approved by a Moderator following a review of evidence gathered by the Accreditation team and supplied by the RCCP.

No Conditions or Recommendations were issued.

The following report provides detail supporting the outcome.

# Assessment against the Standards for Accredited Registers

## Standard 1: the organisation holds a voluntary register of people in health and/or social care occupations

- 1.1 RCCP plans to add Educational Audiologists as a new sub-group of the Audiology discipline onto its register.
- 1.2 RCCP described Educational Audiologists as being ‘involved in the monitoring of hearing loss and review of hearing aids (in or liaising with the Hospital’s Audiology department), giving advice to families and schools in the home, school and clinic environment, and providing the assessment of educational progress related to the child’s audiological status and learning environment. Educational Audiologists measure and report on the acoustics of learning areas and provision of Radio Hearing Aids.’ RCCP notes that an Educational Audiologist ‘is a specialist’ that is ‘required to have a specialist qualification to work with children.’
- 1.3 RCCP noted that Educational Audiologists form part of the workforce related to clinical audiology. RCCP state that there is an overlap between education and healthcare services with regards to the care of children who are deaf.
- 1.4 The RCCP estimate that there are approximately 400 Educational Audiologists within the UK who would be eligible to register.
- 1.5 The Authority considered the information provided and noted that Educational Audiology satisfies the definition of healthcare, as laid down in the National Health Service Reform and Health Care Professions Act 2002, section 25E (8) - ‘Health care’ includes: all forms of health care for individuals, whether relating to physical or mental health; and procedures that are similar to forms of medical or surgical care but are not provided in connection with a medical condition.’
- 1.6 The Authority found that RCCP continues to meet this Standard.

## Standard 2: the organisation demonstrates that it is committed to protecting the public and promoting public confidence in the occupation it registers

- 2.1 This is currently an unregulated/unregistered group and bringing them under the remit of the Accredited Register would increase public protection to children and young people who are deaf. RCCP note that professional registration ‘will improve the joined up working between Health and Education by helping to raise the profile of the professional group. Educational Audiologists bridge the gap between the NHS audiology clinic, school and the home environments for children with hearing impairment. Both Audiologists and Educational Audiologists assess hearing loss and manage hearing aid technology using the same professional guidelines, set by the British Society for Audiology. Professional registration will recognise the importance of performing these procedures to the same standards, ensuring safety and ongoing care for children with hearing impairment. Professional registration will set standards for registered Educational Audiologists.’

- 2.2 The RCCP reported that it will be making changes to its governance as noted under Standard 7 in response to the change.
- 2.3 The Authority noted the changes in governance and found that RCCP continues to meet this Standard.

### **Standard 3: risk management**

- 3.1 RCCP highlight the potential risks with mis-interpreting and mis-communicating results which could have an impact on the educational development of a child or young person who is deaf.
- 3.2 RCCP updated its risk matrix to include reference to Educational Audiologists within existing risks. At the last annual review, RCCP also included a specific risk about working with vulnerable groups including children and adults. RCCP report that it will work with the professional bodies and employers to understand how risks for these groups can be further mitigated. Educational Audiologists will also be represented on the Advisory Committee who will feed into risk management. As with other modalities, the RCCP will also monitor complaints for relevant risks.
- 3.3 The RCCP will continue to monitor its risk register on a regular basis through its Board, Advisory Committee and other RCCP sub-committees.
- 3.4 The Authority found that RCCP continues to meet this Standard.

### **Standard 4: the organisation demonstrates that it has sufficient finance to enable it to fulfil its voluntary register functions effectively including setting standards, education, registration, complaints and removal from the register**

- 4.1 The addition of Educational Audiology to the RCCP register could result in more registrants, therefore increasing RCCP's revenue and therefore helping with financial sustainability.
- 4.2 The Authority found that RCCP continues to meet this Standard.

### **Standard 5: the organisation demonstrates that it has the capacity to inspire confidence in its ability to manage the register effectively**

- 5.1 The RCCP reported that it will be altering its governance processes as noted under Standard 7 in response to the change.
- 5.2 The Authority found that RCCP continues to meet this Standard.

### **Standard 6: the organisation demonstrates that there is a defined knowledge base underpinning the health and social care occupations covered by its register or, alternatively, how it is actively developing one. The organisation makes the defined knowledge base or its development explicit to the public**

- 6.1 RCCP reported that it will add a link to the BAEA as well as information about Educational Audiologists to the 'about' page of its website. If the change is accepted, the team will review the information provided on the RCCP's website as part of its checks.
- 6.2 The Authority found that RCCP continues to meet this Standard.

## Standard 7: governance

- 7.1 RCCP reported that representatives from the BAEA, the professional body for the occupation, will be invited to sit on the RCCP Advisory Committee and the Education and Professional Standards Committee (previously the Professional Bodies Education Committee ([PBEC](#))) which is responsible for the accreditation of relevant courses. Educational Audiologists will also be invited to the Professional Conduct Committee to help with fitness to practice cases.
- 7.2 The Authority found that RCCP continues to meet this Standard.

## Standard 8: setting standards for registrants

- 8.1 Educational Audiologists will be expected to abide by the RCCP's [Code of Conduct](#) and [Standards of Proficiency](#). The team noted that there are some standards within this document that are specific to Audiologists and Hearing Therapists.
- 8.2 The RCCP confirmed that should the change be approved, it will update its standards to include relevant specific standards for Educational Audiologists that are not already covered by the current standards. The RCCP reported that they would intend for this to be completed within six weeks of the change being approved and that they will be in place before the RCCP starts its peer assessment process for the first cohort. This will come under the remit of the Education and Professional Standards Committee.
- 8.3 The RCCP also confirmed that it will be reviewing its Standards of Proficiency and Code of Conduct in 2019-20 and that safeguarding and working with children will be included as part of this review.
- 8.4 The Authority found that RCCP continues to meet this Standard.

## Standard 9: education and training

- 9.1 The RCCP has accredited an MSc/PG Diploma course delivered by the Mary Hare Grammar School which is part of the University of Hertfordshire. The course is based on the BAEA competencies for Educational Audiologists and has been assessed as providing registrants with the knowledge and skills required to be on the RCCP's register. RCCP confirmed that it will add this to its list of accredited courses. As with other Accredited courses, the course will be expected to provide an annual statement to the RCCP to declare that no major changes have been made. If major changes have been made, a re-assessment will be required.
- 9.2 To be eligible to enter the course, applicants must have a degree (or equivalent) and continuing DBS clearance. Typically, applicants to the Masters course will have prior qualifications as a Teacher of the Deaf.
- 9.3 The course is a two-year course and covers topics such as Acoustics, Anatomy and Physiology, Audiological assessment, Family Friendly Assessment and Habilitation and Psychoacoustics, Anatomy and Physiology.
- 9.4 The Authority found that RCCP continues to meet this Standard.

## Standard 10: management of the register

- 10.1 RCCP reported that Educational Audiologists will be required to go through the same registrations processes as those applying for other modalities. The scrutineers will come from the British Association of Educational Audiologists (BAEA) and must be working as an Educational Audiologist. This panel of scrutineers will be required to submit their own applications for admittance to the RCCP register, these applications will go through peer assessment. The port-folio of evidenced will be assessed against the agreed standards of education, training and experience for Educational Audiologists at a designated Advisory Committee meeting with members of the other modalities present. The Registrar will be present to provide quality assurance to the process. Successful applicants will then be required to carry out the RCCP assessor training before assessing applications for the register. This pool of assessors will also be required to carry out the RCCP continuous professional development assessments.
- 10.2 As with other modalities, there will be three registration routes to the register.
- 1) The Graduate Registration route which opened in July 2018 following RCCP's accreditation of the course. RCCP will start accepting applicants via this route if the change is approved and Educational Audiologists become part of its Accredited Register for applicants who graduated from the RCCP accredited course. Graduates must apply within two years of graduation to apply by this route.
  - 2) The Standard Registration route which will open in 2020 and is for applicants who graduated from the RCCP accredited course, but who did not register within the two-year window. Applicants will need to have gained a minimum of two years' experience.
  - 3) The Equivalence route which is open to Educational Audiologists who have at least six years' experience (this can include experience of working as a Teacher of the Deaf.)
- 10.3 Educational Audiologists will be expected to abide by the RCCP's [Standards for Continuing Professional Development](#).
- 10.4 The Authority found that RCCP continues to meet this Standard.

## Standard 11: complaints and concerns handling

- 11.1 Educational Audiologists on the register would be expected to comply with RCCP's [complaints procedure](#). As with other disciplines, experts in the field will be made available to decision making panels.
- 11.2 The Authority found that RCCP continues to meet this Standard.

## Share your experience

- 12.1 The Authority received one response to the invitation to share experience which was supportive of the change. The Moderator noted the response.

---

### **Impact assessment**

---

13.1 The Authority noted and took account of the impact of their decision to approve the change.

### **Equality duty under the Equality Act 2010**

---

14.1 The Authority had regard to its duty under the Equality Act 2010 when considering the notification of change.