

Annual review of accreditation 2020/21

Registration Council for Clinical Physiologists
(RCCP)

August 2021

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About the Registration Council for Clinical Physiologists

The Registration Council for Clinical Physiologists (RCCP) registers:

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

Its work includes:

- Setting and maintaining standards of practice 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 June 2021, there were 5,583 registrants on RCCP's register.

RCCP was first accredited on 13 March 2018. This is its third annual review, and this report covers 13 March 2020 to 13 March 2021.

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 12 months.

Accreditation can be renewed by a Moderator in cases where all Standards are evidenced to be met. A Moderator can also issue Recommendations.

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 renew accreditation, renew accreditation with conditions, suspend accreditation or remove accreditation. 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

Outcome

Accreditation for the Registration Council for Clinical Physiologists (RCCP) was renewed for the period of 13 March 2021 to 13 March 2022.

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

The RCCP and the Academy for Healthcare Science (AHCS) recently announced that 'all business relating to The Registration Council for Clinical Physiologists (RCCP) has been transferred into the Academy for Healthcare Science (AHCS) with immediate effect' and that 'nothing will change in the immediate future; all existing staff are being retained and the RCCP annual renewal process for 2021/22 will continue as normal. Any registrant, public or Fitness to Practice queries should continue to be addressed to the respective organisation.' This change came into effect on 1 June 2021. This assessment is based on the RCCP processes as these are still in effect.

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 There were no significant changes reported or noted in relation to RCCP's performance against this Standard in the past year. No changes have been made to the RCCP's register as a result of the RCCP becoming a subsidiary of the AHCS. The Authority found that this Standard continues to be met.

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

- 2.1 The Authority looked at the information provided under Standard 7 when considering this Standard and found that it continues to be met.

Standard 3: risk management

- 3.1 At last year's annual review, the Authority reviewed how registers were considering the risks associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. RCCP reported that it had considered the risks and that it was working with the Accredited Registers Collaborative on a collective approach. Whilst welcoming the collaboration between the registers, the Authority noted that risks associated with the pandemic may be different for each occupation and as such should be recorded by each register within their risk matrices. The Authority decided to issue a recommendation for the RCCP to consider updating its risk register to include risks associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 3.2 The RCCP added relevant risks to its risk register and provided the updated version to the Authority. The Authority reviewed the risk register and found that the Recommendation had been considered.
- 3.3 The RCCP reported that it will be reviewing and updating its risk register for its next Board meeting in September. The RCCP will provide an updated version to the Authority in due course.
- 3.4 The Authority found that this Standard continues to be met.

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 As part of its due diligence, the Authority reviewed records from Companies House and found that this Standard continues to be met.

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

- 5.1 The Authority looked at the information provided under Standard 7 when considering this Standard and found that it continues to be met.

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 There were no significant changes reported or noted in relation to RCCP's performance against this Standard in the past year. No changes have been made to the RCCP's register as a result of the RCCP becoming a subsidiary of the AHCS. The Authority found that this Standard continues to be met.

Standard 7: governance

- 7.1 As noted above, the RCCP has recently [announced](#) that it had transferred its business to the Academy for Healthcare Science (AHCS). The organisations confirmed that 'nothing will change in the immediate future' and that 'any registrant, public or Fitness to Practice queries should continue to be addressed to the respective organisation.' This change came into effect on 1 June 2021.
- 7.2 This has resulted in changes to the RCCP's governance. The Board has been reshaped to include AHCS Board members and the AHCS Chief Executive and Registrar has taken over as the Chief Executive and Registrar for the RCCP. No further changes have been made to any of the RCCP's committees, standards or procedures.
- 7.3 The RCCP confirmed that it had consulted with its registrants, professional bodies and the higher education institutions about the change, noting that overall, the 'proposals were positively received.' The RCCP and the AHCS are committed to ensure that the process remains transparent going forward and will be publishing a set of Frequently Asked Questions in due course.
- 7.4 The Authority recognise the changes that have been made to the governance of the RCCP and will be reviewing these arrangements as part of the Academy's next assessment to ensure there is effective oversight of the RCCP and its functions. The Authority found that this Standard continues to be met.

Standard 8: setting standards for registrants

- 8.1 There were no significant changes reported or noted in relation to RCCP's performance against this Standard in the past year. No changes have been made to the RCCP's register as a result of the RCCP becoming a subsidiary of the AHCS. The Authority found that this Standard continues to be met.

Standard 9: education and training

- 9.1 There were no significant changes reported or noted in relation to RCCP's performance against this Standard in the past year. No changes have been made to the RCCP's register as a result of the RCCP becoming a subsidiary of the AHCS. The Authority found that this Standard continues to be met.

Standard 10: management of the register

10.1 There were no significant changes reported or noted in relation to RCCP's performance against this Standard in the past year. No changes have been made to the RCCP's register as a result of the RCCP becoming a subsidiary of the AHCS. The Authority found that this Standard continues to be met.

Standard 11: complaints and concerns handling

11.1 At last year's annual review, the Authority considered RCCP's complaints procedures and noted the changes made by the RCCP. The Authority noted that although the policy states the publication times for most of the sanctions, it doesn't for conditions. The Authority also noted that the policy was not clear with regards to reprimands and their use. The Authority decided to issue a Recommendation for RCCP to consider updating its complaints procedure to make clear the publication of conditions and its use and process around the issuing of a reprimand.

11.2 This year the Authority reviewed the RCCP's Fitness to Practice Procedure found on its website. This document states that:

'A Reprimand, which will remain on the RCCP Register for a period of one year unless the Committee determines a lesser period.

A Conditions Order. This should specify the conditions relevant to the Registrant's membership and the period for which it has effect and can be imposed for a period of up to 3 years and the order must be reviewed before it expires. Conditions Orders are published on our website and online Register'

11.3 RCCP's Sanctions Guidelines provides details about reprimand orders including what they are, when they are appropriate to use and how long they would be published for.

11.4 No changes have been made to the RCCP's handling of complaints as a result of the RCCP becoming a subsidiary of the AHCS. The Authority found that the Recommendation had been considered and that this Standard continues to be met.

Share your experience

12.1 The Accreditation team did not receive any responses to the invitation to share experience and did not receive any concerns about the RCCP during the accreditation year.

Impact assessment

13.1 The Authority considered the impact of its decision to renew the RCCP's accreditation.

Equality duty under the Equality Act 2010

14.1 The Authority had due regard to its duty under the Equality Act 2010 when considering the application for renewal of accreditation.