

Forty Eighth Meeting of the RCT Management Panel
Summary Minutes of the meeting held at IPEM Office in York
10th February 2016

1. Minutes of the 47th RCT Management Panel Meeting (October 2015)

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as a true and accurate record.

2. Matter arising / actions

The actions were discussed and all were deemed complete.

3. Strategic future of the RCT

IPEM have a seat on the AHCS Council as do ART but are not board members and chose specifically not to be as it was a conflict of interest. One of the issues within healthcare science arena is that there are a number of voluntary registers which have been accredited. The arena can be somewhat uncomfortable due to these competing registers. It is the view of the RCT that it should remain independent at the present time although long term there may be merit in the amalgamating with another register.

The Registration Council of Clinical Physiologists (RCCP); this is a voluntary register with approximately 7000 registrants in the disciplines of audiology, cardiac physiology, gastro-intestinal physiology, neurophysiology, respiratory physiology & sleep physiology. They have decided to apply for accreditation and are looking to achieve this in 2016. This will provide additional competition to the AHCS register. It may be necessary for the AHCS to re-consider its position. Potentially it may consider itself as an umbrella body and concentrate on those healthcare areas where there is no registration.

The Practitioner Training Programme (PTP) is a government approved degree approved for Clinical Technologists. The numbers on these educational programmes are small and those graduating from this are being encouraged to register directly with the AHCS.

4. PSA Governance

The RCTMP discussed if it is appropriate to hear appeals and decided on the following route.

| Basis of appeal | Route |
|----------------------|--|
| New evidence | A new professional conduct panel will be set up to consider the new evidence |
| Findings | A new professional conduct panel will be set to re-consider the evidence where there is just cause |
| Process | An appeals panel will be set up |
| Sanctions too severe | An appeals panel will be set up |

An appeals panel could potentially consist of:

- a RCTMP member (who will act as Chair);
- a registrant from the part of the register to which the appeal relates; and
- a lay person.

If an appeal relates to an appellant's health, the Panel will also include a registered medical practitioner

The Appeal Panel acts independently and Panel members will not have played any previous part in the decision that is being appealed. The Panel will reach a decision based upon the evidence put before it.

The register has been updated with a new registration status and the markers were accepted by the panel. It was agreed to remove those registrants completely from the register where they had lapsed due to non-payment.

The panel discussed what mechanism is in place to filter out social media complaints. These will be directed to the secretary of the Professional Conduct Committee.

The panel agreed that hearings should be conducted in public and should follow the same route as the HCPC process.

5. Scope of re-accreditation

It was agreed to continue to re-apply for accreditation.

6. Education and training statements for inclusion on the website.

It was felt that there was no other option than to link to the Modernising Scientific Standards for PTP the scopes of practice and equivalence standards.

7. Progress on Equivalence and Scopes of Practice

The RCT Equivalence Standard Physics - the changes to these were accepted with the next stage of pilot starting in February. Portuguese State Registered technologists are eligible to apply via the equivalence route.

Scopes of Practice – progress - the changes to these were accepted and are due for publication shortly.

8. Policies

Career break - the policy was accepted by the panel with the removal of redundancy in the scope. The process for re-application will be added and registrants notified.

Fitness to practice procedure - it was noted that the fitness to practice procedure had been amended as per the last meeting and published on the website.

9. Risk and reports - there were no new risks and the factors were assessed as remaining the same.

10. Disciplinary hearings – none to report.

11. Any other business

CPD Audit

The website has been updated with further information on the process and the evidence that will be required.

The approach should be to encourage and work with registrants to provide the evidence not to fail them because there is insufficient detail. The failure will only come from those who do not provide the evidence when requested. It was agreed:

- Those who do not provide evidence should be removed from the register.
- Those who are unable to submit by the date will be given an extension.
- Those who are asked for further evidence will be given 3 months.
- The 2.5% sample size is to include the re-audits from last year to ensure it is manageable.

12. Date of next meeting

8th June 2016 (11am – 3pm)