

Changes to CPD requirements

Background

In November 2008, Council agreed a recommendation from the Education, Training and Examining Body Committee to conduct a formal consultation on proposed changes to the Council's standards. A copy of the consultation document is given at appendix 1 to this report. The consultation ended on 31st January 2009. The outcome of the consultation was as follows:

Type of respondent	No. of responses	Support proposals	Reservations	Do not support
Professional bodies	2	1		1
Dispensing companies	3	2		1
RHADs	7	4	3	
Total	12	7	3	2

Table 1: Number and type of consultation responses

The key issues raised by respondents are:

- support the standards as proposed as right direction for profession;
- support the standards but believe that implementation time should be longer;
- new standards without audit will result in reduced performance or non-compliance
- wants to retain a points-based system;
- concerns about level of understanding by RHADs and what support will be available;
- lack of clarity about how scheme will operate; and
- wants minimum requirements for CPD.

The following issues arise from the responses to the consultation:

- further work is needed to explain the changes in standards, what these mean and how they sit alongside the CPD requirements of professional bodies;
- work should be done by the professional bodies to help RHADs assess their CPD needs, put together an appropriate programme of CPD activity, evaluate the learning outcomes achieved through this programme and record this activity in their CPD log; and
- with just over a year left before the HPC's standards come into force for RHADs, there is still a lack of understanding and misapprehension about the new standards, levels of compliance and implications for the profession. Work is needed to improve understanding and ensure the professional bodies are fit for their new roles within the HPC framework.