



AHCS
Academy for Healthcare Science

The benefits of being a registrant

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Statutory regulation vs voluntary registration



Statutory regulation (HCPC):

- Enshrined in law
- Designated titles protected by law - anyone who using the title must be on the Register. A person who is not registered and who misuses a designated title is breaking the law and may be prosecuted.
- Under Article 39(1) of the Health and Social Work Professions Order 2001, it is a criminal offence for a person with intent to deceive (whether clearly or by implication) to:
 - claim that they are on the HCPC Register;
 - use a designated title protected by the Order to which they are not entitled; or
 - claim falsely that they have qualifications in a profession regulated by us.

Voluntary registration:

- No legal requirement
- No designated titles
- Voluntary registration demonstrates a practitioner's commitment to maintaining high professional standards

Professional Standards Authority and statutory regulation



Oversees the work of the nine statutory regulators i.e. the regulators' regulator

- General Chiropractic Council
- General Dental Council
- General Medical Council
- General Optical Council
- General Osteopathic Council
- General Pharmaceutical Council
- Health and Care Professions Council
- Nursing and Midwifery Council
- Pharmaceutical Council of Northern Ireland

Professional Standards Authority and statutory regulation



Regulators are responsible for the registration of health and care professionals working in occupations that Parliament has said must be regulated.

These regulators have four important roles:

- 1) Setting the standards of competence and conduct that health and care professionals must meet in order to be registered and practice
- 2) Checking the quality of education and training courses to make sure that they give students the skills and knowledge to practice safely and competently
- 3) Maintaining a register that everyone can search
- 4) Investigating complaints about people on their register and deciding if they should be allowed to continue to practice or should be struck off the register due to issues related to their conduct or their competence.

Professional Standards Authority and Accredited Registers



PSA also works with organisations that register health and social care practitioners who are not regulated by law

- Practitioners on an Accredited Register are part of a government-backed scheme to protect the public
- Organisations holding an Accredited Register have been rigorously assessed by the PSA and awarded their quality mark
- PSA ensures that you are given clear and accurate information to help you choose a practitioner to meet your needs
- PSA ensures that Accredited Registers handle complaints fairly and robustly
- If a practitioner is struck off an Accredited Register they are not allowed to join another one in the same occupation (or another in a different occupation if removed for misconduct), so that you and others can avoid poor practice
- Accredited Registers are recognised and supported by key stakeholders in the UK.

Professional Standards Authority and The Academy for Healthcare Science



- “The Academy for Healthcare Science Regulation Council’s core purpose is to reduce this risk and aim to keep patients and the public safe. This is achieved through structures, processes and maintaining Registers for Healthcare Science workers who are not regulated by statute by the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC).
- Applying to join the AHCS register is currently voluntary for individuals, but is recommended increasingly across the UK; at a national level and by employing organisations, service providers, commissioners and patients who are increasingly viewing registration as essential for showing commitment to the quality of practice. However, we continue to believe that consistent and appropriate statutory regulation for all Healthcare Science staff groups should be a long-term aim for protection of patients and the public.
- The AHCS register was accredited by the Professional Standards Authority for Health and Social Care (PSA) and launched in December 2014 for Healthcare Science Practitioners. The Accredited Register now consists of four parts; it was extended to include Higher Specialist Scientists in October 2015, Medical Illustrators in February 2017 and Clinical Physiologists in June 2017”.

(AHCS, 2017)

Professional
Standards Authority

Statutory Regulation

Health and Care
Professions Council

Voluntary Accredited Registration

Academy for
Healthcare Science

Arts Therapists, Biomedical Scientists, Chiropodists / Podiatrists, Clinical Scientists, Dieticians, Hearing Aid Dispensers, Nutritionists, Occupational Therapists, Operating department practitioners, Orthoptists, Paramedics, Physiotherapists, Practitioner psychologists, Prosthetists / orthotists, Radiographers, Social workers, Speech and language therapists.

Healthcare
Scientists
Register

Higher
Specialist
Scientists
Register

Medical
Illustrators
Register

Clinical
Physiologists
Register



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The benefits of registration from an organisational perspective

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The benefits of registration – for patients and the public

- The aim of registration is to protect patients and the public
- Anyone can check the register to see if their practitioner is competent, trustworthy and has been trained to the appropriate professional standards
- Registration gives the patients and public confidence that the Register will have checked practitioners' competence and will hold them to account
- Any concerns about a practitioner's "fitness to practice" can be reported to the Register or to the Professional Standards Authority for investigation
- Practitioners can be removed from the register for proven misconduct or incompetence



The benefits of registration – for employers and stakeholders

- Accredited Registers are recognised and supported by key interested parties in the respective professions throughout the UK.
- Independent assurance that is recognised by NHS Employers, other regulators such as the Care Quality Commission and Any Qualified Providers scheme
- Employers can identify practitioners that they can trust with their clients
- They can choose practitioners whose organisations hold them to high standards
- Peace of mind because Registers receiving the PSA quality mark must have a robust, transparent and fair complaints procedure in place, to ensure that the right action is taken if things go wrong



The benefits of registration – for professional standards

- Being accepted onto an Accredited Register reinforces qualifications and promotes professional competence.
- It ensures that all registrants are educated and trained to the same professional standards (either by qualifications obtained or via Equivalence).
- Registration also demonstrates a commitment to maintaining Continuous Professional Development.



The benefits of registration – for registrants

- By applying for registration you are demonstrating a commitment to maintaining high professional standards
- Because the Register is recognised by employers and stakeholders registration could open opportunities over those who choose not to register.
- In the event of a complaint being raised registrants can be assured that this will be handled fairly, robustly and transparently.

Also:

- You may get tax relief on your Registration Fees