

RCCP and the AHCS Collaboration Project – Update

15.12.2020

Over the last few months, The Academy for Healthcare Science (AHCS) and the Registration Council for Clinical Physiologists (RCCP) have been undertaking joint work to explore greater collaboration. These discussions have been taking place in the context of a review of Accredited Registers by the Professional Standards Authority (PSA), pressure on the costs and overheads of running registers and the growing need for patients to have a clearer and more simplified way of identifying clinical physiologists, understanding their roles and seeking redress where required.

Both organisations operate and manage approved PSA Voluntary Registers for clinical physiologists. The work has sought to consider how the organisation's might best work together in the interests of patient safety, public confidence and provide clarity for professionals, the profession, employers and educators.

The initial phase of the joint collaborative assessment has now been successfully completed and this has generated a series of potential areas of joint working. Both organisations are now ready to move to the next stage of the process which will involve a detailed evaluation of the preferred option. Over the next two months they will enter dialogue with stakeholder bodies, registrants, the Professional Standards Authority and the staff of both organisations reviewing these options.

At this point in time there are no changes proposed to the roles of either organisation. Practitioners should continue to register with their preferred Register. It is envisaged that the engagement process will be completed in early 2021, at which time a further announcement will be made about the way forward. Both organizations will continue to provide support to registrants and will deal with enquiries from the general public.

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The AHCS is the overarching body for the whole of the Healthcare Science Profession. Working to ensure that Healthcare Science is recognised and respected as one of the key Clinical Professions in the Health and Care system. Working alongside a diverse range of professional bodies, and other stakeholders to bring together a wide range of scientific disciplines across the UK. AHCS takes a proactive role in the identification of issues of concern to patients and the profession and supports the highest standards of patient care. It provides an Accredited Register, equivalence and supports the Certificate of Attainment and Certificate of Equivalence for the scientist training programme

- *The RCCP campaigns for patient safety and holds an Accredited Register for the disciplines of Audiologists (including Educational Audiologists and Hearing Therapists), Cardiac Physiologists, Gastro-intestinal Physiologists, Neurophysiologists, Respiratory Physiologists and Sleep Physiologists.*