

CNHC Verification Processes

Introduction

There appears to be considerable confusion and/or concern about the proposed changes to the CNHC verification processes. The purpose of this note is to clarify the current position.

Principles

1. CNHC's bottom line must always be that only those who meet the CNHC criteria/standards for entry to the register are registered.
2. It would be a potential disaster both for CNHC and the sector if someone who has not undertaken the appropriate level of training or acquired the relevant level of skill through experience were to be registered. This must be avoided at all costs and will always be our major concern.
3. However, like all regulators we are required to set standards for safe practice/occupational competence, not standards of excellence.
4. As this is the case, as the sector regulator, we are required to ensure that all those who meet our standards have access to appropriate routes on to the CNHC register, but without being required to meet standards in excess of those required by CNHC as regulator.
5. We do, of course, strongly support those professional associations who set standards of excellence, (which may well be in excess of those of CNHC) as this contributes to the development and growth of the professions.
6. Over time, we look forward to continuing to work with colleagues to keep standards under review and enhance them, as appropriate.

CNHC standards

CNHC requires that those entering its register meet the following educational/competency requirements:

- Have undertaken a programme of education and training which meets, as a minimum, the National Occupational Standards for that profession/discipline

or

- Have achieved competency to the level of the National Occupational Standards for the therapy/discipline concerned by means of relevant experience of at least three years and /or relevant training and been assessed by their peers as having met those standards

and

- Have met the agreed standards of proficiency for that profession/discipline

Standards of proficiency

Standards of proficiency should be considered as being synonymous with occupational competency and should include both generic elements, which all registrants must meet, and profession-specific elements, which are relevant to registrants belonging to one of the complementary healthcare professions that are regulated.

National Curricula

We are aware that a number of professional groups have established 'national curricula' for their professional discipline and many of these have been mapped against the relevant National Occupational Standards. In some instances the national curricula will have requirements in excess of the NOS and this should be taken into account when considering verification for CNHC registration.

Verification

Process

Applications for verification can be made for CNHC registration through any professional body which has processes in place to ensure that the applicant meets the standards described above and has been approved by CNHC for that purpose.

Single modality Professional Associations

Where approved for verification by CNHC, such organisations can verify individuals within their professional discipline/modality. Applications must be assessed against the CNHC requirements and not in excess of the same. In some instances membership of specific PAs will, in its own right, confirm that an applicant has achieved standards that meet, or are in excess of, the NOS. In other instances, this will need to be confirmed by some form of assessment. It is anticipated that only a very few applicants would need to undertake a formal AP(E)L process.

Multi modality Professional Associations

Where approved for verification by CNHC, such organisations can verify individuals within any professional discipline/modality, providing they have the necessary professions specific knowledge and skills to do so. Applications must be assessed against the CNHC requirements and not in excess of the same. In some instances membership of specific PAs will, in its own right, confirm that an applicant has achieved standards that meet, or are in excess of, the NOS. In other instances, this will need to be confirmed by some form of assessment. It is anticipated that only a very few applicants would need to undertake a formal AP(E)L process.