

Urgent - HPC Registration Renewal !

Radiographers are due to renew their registration with the Health Professions Council (HPC) on 1st March 2006.

Renewing registration is the process by which radiographers confirm that they continue to meet the HPC's standards, and that they have the skills and knowledge to practise safely. Radiographers must renew their registration by 1st March 2006 or face being "lapsed" – removal of their name from the register. The consequences of this are serious - under legislation if a radiographer is lapsed it means his/her name is not on the HPC register and he/she can no longer use the professional protected title. According to HPC 10% of health professionals do not renew their registration on time and face being "lapsed" - the most common reason being that they have changed their address since first registering, not informing HPC of this new address and therefore never receive the form for renewal. A total of 3 renewal notices will be sent to radiographers (several weeks before the end of the registration cycle) to remind them to renew their registration within the allotted timescale (before 1st March 2006) but radiographers must ensure that HPC have their most up to date contact details. The onus is on the radiographer to ensure HPC have his/her correct contact details and then to renew his/her registration. The law states that if a radiographer wants to keep practising then he/she must be registered with HPC.

At a recent HPC listening event in Scotland Maria Murray, SCoR Professional Officer heard from Speech and Language Therapy (SLT) colleagues who recently went through the renewal of registration process. The Speech and Language Therapists who were late with their renewal form (even by just one day!) were:

- removed from the HPC register
- not allowed to use their protected title
- not able to deliver full SLT services
- paid at a reduced salary scale during this "lapsed" phase until they went through the process of application for re-admission to the register.

Radiographers must learn from SLT colleagues and ensure that HPC have a correct contact address in order that they receive the renewal notices and then radiographers must complete the renewal form on time to ensure they keep their name on the HPC register.

Here is an extract from the HPC website:

In order to renew registration radiographers will need to:

- pay the registration fee
- AND sign the declaration stating that they continue to meet HPC standards
- AND return this declaration to HPC.

Signing the professional declaration means that the radiographer states that:

- He/she continues to meet the HPC's standards of proficiency for the safe and effective practice of radiography
- There have been no changes to the radiographer's health or relating to the good character of the radiographer which he/she has not advised HPC about and which would affect his/her safe and effective practice of radiography

Further details of the renewal process (including timescales) and how to contact HPC are on their website at: www.hpc-uk.org/registrants/renew

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21/11/05