

Consultation on GDC changes to the Dentist Regulations and DCP Rules

Response from the Faculty of General Dental Practice (UK)

June 2014

Questions

- 1. Having read the Rules and Regulations, do you agree that they provide a clear description of how Council will administer the Dental and DCP Registers?**

Yes. However, the documents may be viewed by some registrants as being rather difficult to understand. While we recognise that all legal documents contain terminology that may require careful interpretation, we would suggest that a 'plain English' summary of each document may be useful.

- 2. Having read the Rules and Regulations and the changes described in this covering document, do you agree that the changes clarify how the Council will administer the Dental and DCP Registers?**

Yes.

- 3. Rule 3 of the DCP Rules aims to clarify the definition of "restoration". Do you agree that this definition clarifies the term?**

No. We would suggest the following provides better clarity:

"Restoration" means that a dental care professional is re-registered (or reinstated) to the dental care professionals register under their previous title(s) and name.

- 4. Rule 17 of the DCP Rules removes the inability of the GDC to erase a dental care professional in FtP procedures. Do you agree with this?**

Yes. We are in favour of this as it would bring DCPs in line with other professionals. DCPs must be subject to the same regulation as dentists.

5. Rule 2c of the Schedule in the DCP Rules replaces the requirement of a third party health reference in the registration process with a self-certification. Do you agree with this?

Yes. However, we would urge that the most appropriate professional to comment on a registrant's physical and mental health would be their medical practitioner, and it may be prudent for the GDC to make this clear in the documents, both for dentists and DCPs.

6. Do you think that there is anything missing that should have been included?

We believe that it is important for both documents to state the need for a registrant to be suitably indemnified and to provide details of their indemnity provider. The GDC may also wish to consider including the need to provide a contact address for a period of time (six years, possibly) should a registrant leave the UK or the register. This would negate circumstances in which a patient complaint is unable to be progressed due to an inability to determine these facts.

7. Do the Rules and Regulations seem fair and reasonable to you?

Yes.

8. Do you have any general comments regarding the new Rules and Regulations?

On the whole, the documents are clear and comprehensive.

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For correspondence:

Charlotte Worker

Public Affairs, PR & Policy Manager, FGDP(UK)

cworker@rcseng.ac.uk 020 7869 6759 www.fgdp.org.uk