

Independent Healthcare Forum

Ground Floor
15-19 Bloomsbury
Way
London WC1A 2BA
Tel 020 7656 2293
Fax 020 76562170
IHF Sallytaber@aol.com
IHF Lauraburke@aol.com
[m](#)

28 May 2004

SET and Approvals Consultation
Health Professions Council
Park House
184 Kennington Park Road
London
SE11 4BU

Dear Sir / Madam,

Standards of education and training and the approvals process

The Independent Healthcare Forum is a representative Association of independent healthcare providers in the UK.

Across the UK, the independent sector provides more than one million surgical procedures each year, has 220 hospitals providing acute care, and more than 70 acute mental health hospitals and substance misuse units. In terms of community care provision, there are over 14,000 homes caring for 430,000 people. This translates into 80% of all residential community care beds in the entire healthcare sector. The workforce comprises of three quarters of a million staff.

However the provision of healthcare is changing with the opening up of independent sector treatment centres and healthcare being provided in the primary care sector by independent healthcare providers.

Independent Healthcare Forum promotes the highest standards in independent health care and strives to influence the policy debate on the future of healthcare. For this reason, Independent Healthcare Forum welcomes the opportunity to comment on the consultation paper *Standards of education and training and the approvals process* and very much supports the Health Professions Council approach being taken. Independent Healthcare Forum welcomes the defined framework of standards for the profession that the Health Professions Council currently regulates.

Kim Hard Disk:Users:Judy:Work in Progress:Merchant Design 2004:IHF Downloads:280504~1.DOC

Independent Healthcare Forum is late responding to this consultation as it is not on the list of stakeholder consultees and would very much appreciate this corrected for the future in view of the high number of allied healthcare professionals who work in the independent sector. The Independent Healthcare Forum has also worked in close contact with the Association of Operating Department Practitioners and is pleased to note that Operating Department Practitioners will very shortly be transferring to the Health Professions from their current status of a voluntary register.

Independent Healthcare Forum views on Standards of Education and Training

The Independent Healthcare Forum notes the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) is also consulting on a Quality Assurance Partnership Framework for healthcare education in England (the Partnership Framework) and that the two consultations are complementary.

Your views are invited on the Standards of Education and Training as follows:

Level of qualification for entry to the Register

1.2 Are the entry routes set at the appropriate level?

Yes the Independent Healthcare Forum considers the entry routes are appropriate.

Programme admissions

2.4 What are your views on these standards?

2.5 Would you like to see anything added or removed?

The Independent Healthcare Forum considers the standards appropriate.

Programme management and resources standards

3.14 What are your views on these standards?

3.15 Would you like to see anything added or removed?

The Independent Healthcare Forum considers the standards appropriate.

Curriculum standards

4.8 What are your views on these standards?

4.9 Would you like to see anything added or removed?

The Independent Healthcare Forum considers the standards appropriate.

Practice placement standards

5.14 What are your views on these standards?

5.15 Would you like to see anything added or removed?

The Independent Healthcare Forum considers the standards appropriate and would like the Health Professions Council to take note that the independent sector would like to expand the provision of practice placements for Allied Healthcare Professionals.

Assessment standards

6.8 What are your views on these standards?

6.9 Would you like to see anything added or removed?

The Independent Healthcare Forum considers the standards appropriate.

Approval and monitoring processes

Your views are invited on the approval and monitoring processes as follows:

Key components

7.5 What are your views on the key components of our approach towards approval and monitoring?

The Independent Healthcare Forum is comfortable with the approach and has been involved with the Quality Assurance Partnership Framework for Healthcare Education in England.

The multiple professional approach

8.2 What are your views on our proposal to move, so far as practical, to a multiple professional approach for the approval of programmes?

The Independent Healthcare Forum considers this the most appropriate way forward.

Approval process

9.4 What are your views on these proposals for approval?

Again The Independent Healthcare Forum considers the proposals for the approval appropriate.

Approval panel

10.4 What are your views, on the ideal size and composition of a panel to conduct visits effectively?

The Independent Healthcare Forum considers that the size of the panel should be proportionate to the size of the organisation particularly in the independent sector.

Curriculum guidance

11.2 What are your views on our proposals to develop curriculum guidance in conjunction with other stakeholders and the intention to revise this guidance biennially?

The Independent Healthcare Forum considers this as appropriate way to develop curriculum guidance.

Documentation required for programme approval

12.2 Is there anything that you wish to add or remove in relation to the approvals documentation?

The Independent Healthcare Forum would like to remind the Health Professions Council of the diversity of health and social care provision and to ensure that its work is inclusive.

Approval reports

13.2 In your view, how and where should the Visitor's reports be published?

The Independent Healthcare Forum considers that the proposal to publish summaries of the visitors reports in the annual report of the Education and Training committee to be an appropriate place.

Annual monitoring

15.3 What are your views on our proposals for annual monitoring?

The Independent Healthcare Forum does consider a light touch approach appropriate following the initial visit providing self assessment protocols are in place.

Major changes

16.2 In your view, what should constitute a major change to an approved programme?

The Independent Healthcare Forum would also like to add a major change in service provision.

Minor changes

17.2 In your view, what should constitute a minor change to an approved programme?

The Independent Healthcare Forum does not have anything else to add.

External examiners

18.2 What are your views on our proposals for the appointment of external examiners?

The Independent Healthcare Forum considers the proposals appropriate.

Independent Healthcare Forum hopes the above comments will make a useful contribution to your considerations. Should you wish to follow-up on any aspect of the response, please do not hesitate to contact me at the Independent Healthcare Forum.

Yours sincerely

Sally M Taber

Sally Taber
Independent Healthcare Forum

Title	Miss
First Names	Sally
Surname	Taber
Address	Independent Healthcare Forum Ground Floor 15-19 Bloomsbury Way London
Postcode	WC1A 2BA
Email address	IHFsallytaber@aol.com
Name of Organisation	Independent Healthcare Forum