

Urodynamic Training & Accreditation
Certification Group Teleconference
Tuesday 16th February 2010

ON-LINE

Malcolm Lucas
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APOLOGIES

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The aim of the conference call was to discuss the criteria required to achieve “Grandfather” status in terms of accreditation in urodynamics.

PTH set the scene by stating that the Department of Health wants to look at setting standards and accrediting of units undertaking physiological measurements through Modernising Scientific Careers. As we are already in the process of developing our own standards it is hoped that this will allow us to self-regulate rather than have conditions imposed upon us.

The aim of the Grandfather status is to allow those who have not had formal training in Urodynamics to have their experience and expertise recognised. It was agreed that applications for recognition through this route should be allowed for two years and should last for a period of three years. All applications would have to be looked at and agreed on by the committee. It may be advisable for the applications to be divided into the appropriate branch eg. Nursing / Urology / Gynaecology; any applications from specialties not represented on the committee should be divided between the groups and appropriate advice sought from experts in that field if any discrepancies arose between those judging the applications.

Discussion took place around the criteria required to become a Grandfather. It was felt that those who had been practicing urodynamics for over 5 years with a lifetime experience of more than 500 cases fell into one group, whereas those with lesser experience should fall into another group who would be expected to provide evidence that they have completed the RCOG Special Skills Module in Urodynamics or the Advanced Training Skills Module in Urogynaecology or to have completed and passed a recognised course with a final assessment, such as the Bristol course. CR is to investigate whether the Bristol course and its affiliates keep a record of those who have passed the test at the end of their courses.

Evidence required for either group would be evidence of continued practice in Urodynamics such as a job plan, appraisal documentation or letter from the Head of the Urodynamic department (who should also be accredited in Urodynamics). It was felt that currently practitioners should be allowed to select the modules in which they felt they had ongoing practice and be grandfathered in these. Evidence of continuing practice would be required for re-accreditation once the grandfather period had expired.

It was suggested that all practitioners should state whom they had trained with. No evidence would be required for this.

It was appreciated that there will be some practitioners with considerable experience who may not fall into the above categories. There should be provision for them to state why they felt they should be accredited under the Grandfather Clause.

Costs were discussed. A figure of £30-£50 had been suggested in the last teleconference. PTH is going to investigate this further to see if we can get a realistic idea of the likely costs.

Once a practitioner had been accredited a certificate would be issued with a letter detailing the likely criteria to be required for re-accreditation (yet to be agreed).

Private hospitals had not been included in the initial mailing of the "Joint statement on minimum standards for urodynamic practice in the UK". PTH is going to address this.

Timescales

April 2010: Report to UKCS AGM

May 2010: Documents for grandfather available on UKCS website and applications invited.

May 2012: Close of Grandfathering provision.

PTH mentioned that there will need to be discussion around a constitution for UKCS which will take place at the AGM in Torbay.

There appeared to be no need for us to meet as a group at UKCS. PTH is to approach industry to see whether they will provide sponsorship for this ongoing programme, including a meeting of the sub-committees followed by an executive committee meeting later on in the year.

Carmel Ramage 18/02/2010