



# General Information about Regulation undertaken by the AHCS

2018/2019

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#AHCSUK

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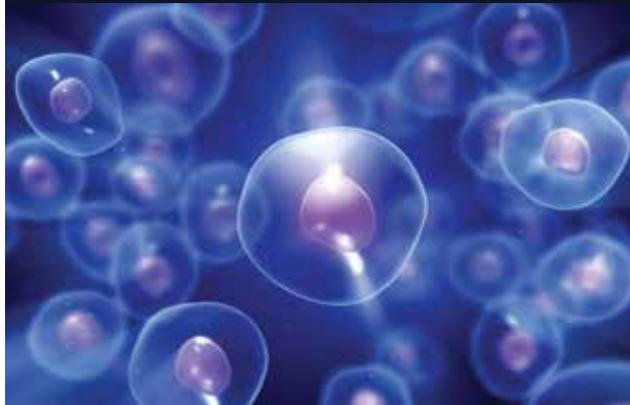


## Introduction

The healthcare science workforce is an essential part of the clinical team and is a diverse, highly skilled group of professionals. They provide an essential service within the NHS and in the private sector, contributing to the diagnosis and treatment of many health service users. Their specialist work can mean that harm can occur to patients and the public should things go wrong. In 2010 the UK Government decided not to extend statutory regulation, instead a system of accredited voluntary regulation was introduced. The Professional Standards Authority oversee this accreditation and applies standards of governance, standard-setting, education and training, management of the register, complaints handling and information that accredited bodies must meet in order to achieve and maintain accreditation. The Academy for Healthcare Science Regulation Council gained PSA accreditation for the Practitioner part of the register in December 2014; this was extended to include the Higher Specialist Scientist part of the register in October 2015.

### **The Academy for Healthcare Science aims to protect the public, and has a Regulation Council that:**

1. sets standards for registrants' education and training, professional skills, conduct and performance;
2. keeps a register of professionals who meet those standards;
3. ensures programmes are approved so that graduates can register with us or where regulated by The Health Care and Professions Council (HCPC) they apply to register with them;
4. enables healthcare science professionals who already work in the health services to gain eligibility to register either with us or where applicable with the HCPC;
5. takes action when professionals on our Register do not meet our standards (similar in approach to the points system and disqualification processes for a driving license).



## Fitness to Practise:

When a registrant is said to be 'fit to practise' we mean that they have the skills, knowledge and character to practise their profession safely and effectively. That is how they both enter and stay on our register.

## Raising a concern

Anyone can raise a concern about a professional registered with us. Patients, carers, employers, other professionals, professional bodies and the police can all contact us and we will investigate the concern. This is often but not always about a question of whether the registrant is fit to practise. We will also consider acts by a registrant which may affect public protection or confidence in the profession, an example may be inappropriate language used on a social media site.

Decisions about fitness to practise are wholly within the remit of the AHCS Registration Council and cannot be altered by the AHCS Board.

## How having an AHCS Register helps

1. Being on the register demonstrates individual commitment by the professional to high standards of competence, quality, patient safety and professional personal behaviours;
2. The register is funded and supported by the NHS;
3. By the register being accredited we have demonstrated that our registration processes meet the PSA high standards in governance, standard setting, education and training, management of the register, complaints handling and information;
4. One AHCS Regulation framework with registers robustly managed for all levels and grades of healthcare science staff (not regulated by HCPC) across the UK makes sense for everyone, especially for patients, the public and employers;
5. The register raises the profile of the Healthcare Science workforce;
6. Employers, service providers, commissioners and patients are increasingly viewing registration as essential to demonstrating commitment to quality and safety of practise;
7. Our Higher Specialist Scientist Register is unique in the UK healthcare science community and enables scientists to seek recognition as Consultants in the health services. Patients can be reassured by professionals having such a high level registration and confirmation of their specialist skills, knowledge and expertise;
8. The AHCS and its Council and Committees is committed to working with professional bodies and expert groups so that the regulation of healthcare science professionals (not registered with HCPC) is informed and shaped by such specialist knowledge, skills and history.