

Via Email 14/09/2011

Hi, I wish to contribute my thoughts and ideas on the proposed registration standards, particularly with regard to CPD.

From the information provided on the consultation document I believe the number of hours required is incredibly excessive. No details of what constitutes an acceptable CPD hour is provided but no doubt many laborious hours will be required travelling to seminars and the like to amass these numbers of hours. A boon for providers of overpriced conferences, this proposal will line their pockets as we will be forced to attend to achieve the quota. My wife, a experienced sonographer is required to achieve 'points' for her registration, requiring her to attend conferences etc., so I know exactly the inconvenience and costs (in money and time) that go with overburdensome CPD requirements. We would prefer to spend our free time with our family and not in traffic jams travelling to seminars to earn CPD hours that will do little to benefit anyone. Juggling family life is difficult enough without added complications and expenses.

The question must be asked what is CPD supposed to achieve exactly? We must ask 'will it make me do my chest x-rays any differently?'. I think practically, little is to be gained by CPD. Sure you can learn lots of interesting information **but** will that information make a difference to your practice of radiography? I've dont believe so. So if mandatory CPD must be instigated, please make it so that the lives of the average radiographer or radiotherapist is not made harder by demanding requirements. How can this be achieved?

- reduce the requirement to 40 hrs per tri-annium
- ensure a vast proporion of these hours can be made up by internet based/self-directed learning or in-house education programs, negating the need to travel to conferences which impose huge cost on individuals and business in money and time.
- reduced requirement for part-time practiitioners doing less than 3 days per week.
- by not making numerous conditions to what can be claimed, when, how etc. Make it simple and transparent. If one reads the AIR CPD rules and regulations, one will be accosted by 40 pages of detail. Surely a simplified model can be produced.
- with regard to conferences, pressure on providers to lower the costs of these events should be forthcoming. Mandatory CPD will markedly increase attendance as people must go to accrue their 'hours'. These groups will do very nicely financially while registrants bare the cost. Some employers (business/government) who subsidise these costs for their staff will also feel an increased cost burden. Even if someone else pays, a blank cheque should not be given to conference providers.

I have spoken to many colleagues at length about this, and the consensus is resoundingly negative about mandatory CPD and the onerous conditions suggested thus far. To circumvent a situation of negativity on this issue, it is hoped the demands on registrants can be minimised.

Yours sincerely,
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