

## **REGISTRATION WITH THE HEALTH PROFESSIONS COUNCIL**

To work as a radiographer in the United Kingdom you have to be registered with The Health Professions Council (you may remember their predecessor – Council for Professions Supplementary to Medicine (CPSM)).

Full information is given on their website [www.hpc-uk.org](http://www.hpc-uk.org) click on Apply and then Re-admission.

Radiographers wishing to return to the Health Professions Council register after a break need to meet certain requirements before being admitted to the register. Returners need to complete a period of updating skills and knowledge, the length of which will depend on the amount of time out of practice.

- 0 - 2 years - no requirements
- 2 - 5 years - 30 days updating skills and knowledge
- 5 or more years - 60 days updating skills and knowledge

The updating period can comprise a combination of supervised practice, formal study and private study. The HPC recognises that it might not always be possible to access a period of supervised practice and that particular return to practice courses may not be available in certain areas; which is why they have tried to be as flexible as possible with the requirements.

If you choose to undertake private study, it should make up no more than half of the updating period.

The remaining part can be made up with any combination of supervised practice and formal study.

The updating period has to take place within 12 months of the date in which you apply to come back onto the HPC Register.

## **SUPERVISED PRACTICE, FORMAL STUDY AND PRIVATE STUDY**

### **1. SUPERVISED PRACTICE**

To gain access to supervised practice you need to find a clinical department willing to take you on. You may still have links from your previous work as a radiographer, if so use them to seek an interview with the Service Manager/Superintendent Radiographer.

Contact details for your local hospitals can be found

For England: <http://www.nhs.uk/England/Hospitals/>

For Scotland: <http://www.show.scot.nhs.uk/>

For Wales: <http://www.wales.nhs.uk/>

For Northern Ireland: <http://www.healthandcareni.co.uk/>

To gain access to the HPC register you need to meet the Standards of Proficiency for Radiographers which you can download from <http://www.hpc-uk.org/publications/standards/index.asp?id=51>

Have a look at the Standards and consider how you can meet them. Depending on your previous experience you will find some easier than others. You need to discuss this with the Service

Manager/Superintendent Radiographer so that he/she can consider what type of supervised practice you will need.

**2. FORMAL STUDY**

There are some Return to Practice Courses available, a current list can be accessed [here](#). If there does not appear to be a course convenient for you it is worth contacting your nearest Higher Education Institution to ask if they might provide any support or at least access to resources including library facilities. A Directory of Courses can be accessed [here](#).

**3. PRIVATE STUDY**

a) Journals

The main journals for Radiographers are Synergy News, Synergy and Radiography all of which are a benefit to members of The Society of Radiographers. To gain access to these you must be a member. The Society of Radiographers offers 3 months free membership to Returners, talk to Vicki Howlett, Membership Services Manager on 020 7740 7210 to claim your three months free membership.

b) The World Wide Web

There is a vast amount of information out there, some good, some not so good and information gleaned from the internet needs to be treated with some caution.

The members section of the website of the Society of Radiographers [www.sor.org](http://www.sor.org) has a lot of information including all of our professional documents and advice. You have to have a membership number to access the members section of the website. The Society of Radiographers offers 3 months free membership to Returners, talk to Vicki Howlett, Membership Services Manager on 020 7740 7210 to claim your three months free membership.

c) [Books](#)

Your nearest Higher Education Institution which provides Radiography Education may allow you access to library facilities. Also your local lending library would be able to borrow books for you. Attached is a sample [booklist](#) used by one Radiography Education Centre.

d) Study days, conferences and meetings

Attendance at events can count towards your period of updating skills and knowledge. You should write a report describing what you learned from the event.