

Practising your profession and HCPC registration



The CSP has sought advice from the HCPC on its interpretation of 'practising your profession'. This is the term that the HCPC uses to define who must be registered with it as the UK regulator for a range of regulated health and social care professionals.

'Practising your profession' means undertaking any activity where you draw on your professional knowledge and skills established through your primary pre-registration qualification, and maintained and developed after registration. This means that 'practising your profession' of physiotherapy will include a large number of roles not only in direct clinical practice, but also equally roles in education, management, research, leadership and policy roles in a range of service sectors.

The HCPC and the CSP recognise that after initial registration, an individual registrant may develop their own work within the profession within one particular aspect of professional practice according to their own career development choices.

The purpose of statutory regulation is to protect the public. The HCPC does this by requiring that those who wish to practise using a protected title in the UK must be registered with them. To gain initial HCPC registration you, must be able to demonstrate that you meet all the HCPC standards of proficiency, standards of conduct, performance and ethics, and you must hold appropriate indemnity to practise.

To maintain your HCPC registration you must self-declare at two-yearly re-registration periods, that you fulfil all the required HCPC standards for your individual area of practice, and that you will pay the current registration fee. You should also notify the HCPC at any other time if something happens that may affect your ability to remain on the register.

A lack of direct contact with patients in a clinical role does not mean that you can lapse your HCPC registration. You do not need to keep a set number of 'clinical' hours to maintain your HCPC registration. Any role that draws on your physiotherapy knowledge and skills in education, management, research, leadership and policy jobs may mean that you are able to demonstrate the HCPC standards for your particular scope of practice and therefore are entitled to maintain your registration. In many cases it may be a requirement of a role that you keep your registration, in order to protect the public.

If you choose to develop your career in a direction that you do not in any way draw upon the knowledge and skills gained from your primary physiotherapy qualification, then you do not need to maintain your HCPC registration. You must be clear that this means you cannot use the protected title of 'physiotherapist' or draw on

'physiotherapy' in any way that might mislead people into believing that you are, or ought to be, HCPC registered. You should keep this under review if you subsequently change the nature of your role or activity.

Non-clinical roles in which you are managing, supervising, developing or influencing the activity of other members of the profession at pre-registration or post-registration levels are clearly 'practising your profession' and you must maintain your HCPC registration in these roles. It is usual for an employer to require the maintenance of registration to fulfil particular job roles. If this is not a condition of your employment or you are self-employed, you need to make your own judgement about your need to hold/maintain registration.

The CSP cannot decide for you whether you need to be registered with the HCPC for any particular role. You must make your own decision after considering this information. If you are unsure about your need for registration, or about completing the declaration required of you at the renewal of registration, you must seek advice from the HCPC directly.

The HCPC only regulates practise on humans. This means that if you work solely with animals, you do not need HCPC registration. The practise of animal physiotherapy is an unregulated activity and there is no protection of title for animal physiotherapists.