

‘CET Webinar – What’s new?’ Q&A 18/05/21

Can a piece of CPD cover two general domains AND the specialty domain?

Yes, it absolutely can. The maximum general domains a piece of CPD can cover is two, but the specialty domain is not included within this, so a piece of CPD could potentially cover the specialty domain and up to two general domains.

Who will be conducting the audit process?

An audit team of specially trained registrants. GOC staff will administer the process, but will not undertake any auditing themselves.

In relation to random audit, if chosen will a provider be taken out of the audit pool for the following year (or the rest of the cycle) or is there a chance they would get audited again?

We are not planning to remove them from the audit pool in such circumstances, but please let us know as part of your feedback on the draft audit policy if you object to this.

If provision was deemed to be inadequate or serious, can it be envisaged that CPD could be removed from the GOC registrants who had taken part?

We don't intend to. Our expectation is that providers would appropriately advertise CPD and provide it as advertised. It would not be fair to punish registrants for the failings of a provider.

What would a new provider need to do to pass the provisional phase, and how long is the provisional period?

The steps that a new provider would need to go through to pass the provisional phase is set out in our Guidance for Providers, which is now published on the GOC website. How long it takes for them to be upgraded from provisional status to approved will depend on the quality of their provision and how often they deliver events, as we will pre-approve a minimum of ten events before considering a provisional provider for upgrade.

Will we get guidance on the proposed peer-to peer reflective exercise soon so we can look to assist the GOC by disseminating messages and providing any other support to registrants?

Yes. This is something we are producing as part of our Guidance for Registrants, which we plan to issue no later than August 2021. Providers will also be sent a link to this guidance once it is published.

If a formal complaint against a provider was deemed to have no substance or malicious, would they be put in the targeted audit pool?

No. Our approach to audit is proportionate, and its aim is to quality-assure: investigating a malicious complaint would not align with this approach.

At the moment we upload points. For CPD, would we need to keep a log of registrants that attend lectures/webinars etc?

Yes. This is set out in our Guidance for Providers, available on our website. It is part of the information we will require in order to be able to properly audit provision.

Is there evidence that a larger number of registrants are not remaining on the register and this is reflected in the number of points not being accepted?

We did not see evidence of this at recent annual renewal of registration.

When will the CPD system be up and running? Is it envisaged registrants will be able to take part in CPD activities provided by approved providers on 1 January 2022?

The system will be up and running in time for registrants to be able to log CPD from early January 2022. There will be a gap of a few days between the closure of the old system and the opening of the new system in order to undertake essential administration: this is something we always do between cycles and will not be affected by the introduction of the new MyCPD system. Providers will have access to the system from October 2021 onwards to be able to upload and advertise content.

If a targeted audit can be triggered by a percentage of poor feedback, what % feedback would be considered “good” in terms of triggering this?

If a provider has less than 25% positive feedback, this will be the trigger for targeted audit. Therefore, if a provider has a higher percentage of positive feedback than 25%, they will not be included in targeted audit.

Is there an update on peer review for DOs in the new scheme?

Work to obtain the necessary legislative change to introduce peer review for dispensing opticians is progressing with the Department of Health and Social Care. We do not at this stage anticipate any issues with this being implemented in time for the new cycle, but we will keep you updated.