

## Notice for OFA Instructors

November 2009

The Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Council (PHECC) is an independent statutory agency with responsibility for education and training standards in the field of pre-hospital emergency care in Ireland. In 2007, PHECC approved the Cardiac First Response (CFR) Standard for basic life support and automated external defibrillation training. It is envisaged that over the next 2 to 3 years the CFR Standard will become the convention nationally.

Following the OFAAA seminar held on Tuesday, 20th October 2009 in the Mullingar Park Hotel, many individual OFA Instructors have sought clarification from the office of PHECC regarding the requirement and reasons for recertification in CFR. This notice seeks to provide a response along with an explanation about the PHECC standards approach to education and training.

PHECC was delighted with the inclusion of the CFR Standard in the revised Occupational First Aid (OFA) Standard and it was agreed as sensible to consider a congruent approach to certification. However, the nuances of the CFR Standard required that PHECC formalise reciprocity between the two Standards. In 2007, the following arrangements were agreed by PHECC.

1. That PHECC will recognise registered Occupational First Aiders as having successfully completed the PHECC CFR Standard. To facilitate the transfer or progression of persons to further learning opportunities, PHECC recognises certification in Occupational First Aid (OFA) as Level 2 on the continuum of pre-hospital emergency care education and training (Levels 1 - 6).
2. That PHECC will recognise the status of OFA Instructors who are registered as Occupational First Aid training providers with the Health and Safety Authority. OFA Instructors are thus permitted to provide the Cardiac First Response (CFR) module, a compulsory module of the new OFA Standard without additional registration with the PHECC. **This reciprocity is conditional on the OFA Instructor remaining in certification as a CFR Instructor.**
3. OFA Instructors may use the PHECC Clinical Practice Guidelines as a training reference or a practice guide as appropriate.

PHECC's position in 2009 is unchanged and this notice in particular, seeks to clarify for OFA Instructors that

1. to provide CFR training external to an OFA course, there are two options:
  - a. You can apply in your own right to PHECC for what is termed Recognition of Institution and Course (CFR) or
  - b. You are eligible as far as PHECC is concerned to be a faculty member of any existing Recognised Institution.
2. to provide OFA and or CFR courses (as outlined in point 1. above), recertification as a CFR Instructor is required every 2 years.
3. recertification in CFR Instructor, can take place at any <sup>ii</sup>PHECC Recognised Institution, with approval to provide CFR Instructor courses.
4. the IHF have this year provided "CFR instructor updates" for those who wish to teach CFR courses and gain dual IHF/AHA Instructor and IHF/PHECC CFR Instructor certification. Instructors who have opted for such dual Instructor qualifications should note that dual recertification is an ongoing requirement.

In conclusion, OFA Instructors are advised to refer regularly to the website of PHECC [www.phecc.ie](http://www.phecc.ie) to access "*The PHECC Voice*" the quarterly newsletter and to keep up to date with other PHECC initiatives. It is hoped in the coming years that OFA training providers will apply to PHECC to provide CFR courses and award joint CFR certification. With already 31 Recognised Institutions providing 88 Recognised courses, it is hoped that no training provider should feel excluded from working with PHECC.

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<sup>i</sup> The HSA or its appointed assessment agent; currently the OFAAA.

<sup>ii</sup> See PHECC's website [www.phecc.ie](http://www.phecc.ie) for up to date list of Recognised Institutions and Courses.