

PHECC Education and Standards Committee

Meeting Minutes 24<sup>th</sup> November 2015

PHECC office, Naas

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**Present**

Ms Valerie Small  
Dr Shane Knox  
Mr Brian Bruno  
Ms Sarah Cain  
Ms Maeve Donnelly  
Ms Roisín McGuire  
Mr Conor Mc Evaddy  
Dr Mick Molloy via Teleconference  
Dr David Menzies  
Assistant Prof Sandra Fleming

**Apologies**

Mr Paul Lambert  
Mr Ray Lacey  
Ms Glenna Woods

**In Attendance**

Pauline Dempsey  
Peter Dennehy  
Jacqueline Egan  
Brian Power  
Barry O'Sullivan  
Marian Spence

**1. Chair's business:**

The Chair welcomed the assembled members and apologies were noted.

**1.1 Minutes and matters arising**

**Resolution:** That the minutes of the Education and Standards Committee of 28/04/2015 be approved.

**Proposed:** Sarah Cain  
Carried without dissent

**Seconded:** Roisin McGuire

Matters arising:

- Re 2.1 CFR training products: appointment for a secondment post in the office is being progressed.
- Re 3.1 NQEMT policy: Council had approved a refund of fees when a complaint about a test item is upheld as recommended by this committee.

Director's update:

The Director spoke to members about the Health and Safety Authority (HSA) and background of occupational first aid (OFA) in Ireland. The HSA Chief Executive and Assistant Chief Executive held a meeting with representatives of PHECC in November to discuss possible synergies between OFA and Council's First Aid Response (FAR) standard and other operational matters including QQI and a stakeholder engagement process. A working group to progress matters was agreed and the outputs of this group will be presented to this committee and Council as appropriate in 2016.

## 1.2 Membership

The Chair welcomed two new members, Assistant Prof. Sandra Fleming and Dr David Menzies to the Committee.

## 2. Education and Training Standards leading to PHECC awards

### 2.1 NQEMT EMT exam – access to exams

Correspondence was included for information by the committee. The committee were asked for their views on the introduction of a fixed time period from completion of the EMT course (confirmed by the RI on the completed NQEMT Examination Application Form) to successful completion of NQEMT EMT assessment. There was general agreement for a period not longer than 6 months as a rule with an extension to 9 months in extenuating circumstances only such as medically certified sick leave or pregnancy. Members discussed the implications for these timeframes. This new rule will need to be communicated to all stakeholders and will be published in the exam handbook and on the PHECC website to ensure all candidates and RIs are fully informed.

**Resolution:** The Committee recommends to Council a change in NQEMT exam policy to confirm that EMT candidates can access NQEMT EMT examinations for a fixed time period of 6 months from completion date of training course to completion of successful assessment. An extension to 9 months be allowed only in extenuating circumstances.

**Proposed:** Shane Knox  
Carried without dissent

**Seconded:** Roisin McGuire

### 2.2 New standards to comply with SI 449 Medicinal Products (Prescription and Control of Supply) (Amendment) No. 2) Regulations 2015; 2 drafts for consideration

The Director left the meeting at this point. Members were informed that SI 449 of 2015 (Medicinal Products (prescription and control of supply) (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2015) was now law and a copy was included for information. An overview from a recent Council meeting was given by the Chair. Council agreed to task the Education and Standards Committee to develop suitable education and training standards for the new prescription only medications.

In this regard, draft standards were included for consideration and members examined in detail *CFR and Epinephrine (Adrenaline) auto-injection* and *CFR and Naloxone pre-filled injection*. Ms Dempsey agreed to incorporate all the members' suggestions, comments and questions into the next draft version.

Some items were noted for the Medical Advisory Group and the assistance of the HPRA for other items will also be sought.

The ensuing discussion explored a variety of approaches for instructor level with the aim to ensure maximum output of these courses in the community whilst ensuring best practice and patient safety is maintained. In response it was agreed a sub-group was required to consider an instructor pack for each course to ensure standardised delivery of the courses as it's rolled out in 2016. The content of the instructor pack will include lesson plans in the first instance with a view to preparing other teaching supports at a later stage. Shane Knox, Roisin McGuire, Mick Molloy and David Menzies volunteered for this sub-group.

### **2.3 Paediatric first aid (response) standard request and response from Council**

This item was discussed at the November Council meeting where there was agreement that the First Aid Response Course would satisfy the requirement for both adults and children in the sector. It was reported that correspondence had been sent to the Department of Children & Youth Affairs in response to the original request. No further action by the committee is required at this time.

## **3. Recognition of professional qualifications**

### **3.1 Level of qualifications for NQEMT awards as per Article 11 of Directive 2005/36/EC on the recognition of professional qualifications (amended by Directive 2015/55/EU)**

A paper was included proposing the level of NQEMT qualifications as per the levels of qualification as per Article 11 of the Directive. Discussion ensued regarding the levels of the Directive proposed for 3 NQEMT levels.

The expected transposition of the directive into Irish law is expected January 2016. Legal advice would be sought to ensure Council Rules remain fully compliant with the new regulations. The Chair agreed the task of grouping the NQEMT awards in accordance with the Directive be brought back for further consideration at subsequent meetings.

## **4. CPC**

### **4.1 Continuing CPC requirements for EMTs: Survey Report (September 2015)**

### **4.2 CPC for Paramedics and Advanced Paramedics: Summary Report (October 2015)**

The order of the agenda was revised and CPC (agenda item 4) was heard as item 2 on the meeting to accommodate a CPC presentation by the Deputy Director who left the meeting shortly after.

Both the above reports were presented at the Council meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> November. The Deputy Director gave a short presentation on the CPC consultation experience and vision. Published literature from Dr Shane Knox and the EMT Guide (green booklet) on the topic were tabled which informed the broader discussion.

A discussion ensued regarding the methodology of recording and CPC electronic and other. The Deputy Director/Registrar confirmed that it is proposed that an electronic record platform will be made available for free by PHECC. It was also acknowledged that some organisations have already developed similar structures to enable Practitioners' record CPC activities and are seeking feedback and further guidance on this matter. It was agreed that Practitioners should be able to select their preferred method to record CPC.

The Director recapped on the discussion and acknowledged all the excellent work completed to date. The response rate to the recent surveys and the overall support from practitioners was remarkably high. He proposed that assistance would be sought from an external organisation (by tender) to explore and report on evidenced-based options for a CPC framework to best meet the requirements of PHECC and needs of practitioners. It is envisaged that a report from this project would be available for this committee by end of Q1 in 2016 with a view to submission to Council by mid Q2 and considering implementation by end of Q2 2016. The challenges of implementation were discussed and there was agreement that if additional resources were required, that Council will be informed and the appropriate business case prepared for the DoH.

**Resolution:** The Committee supports commissioning an external organisation (via tender) to examine all the available evidence and formulate CPC options for PHECC, Paramedics and AP practitioners.

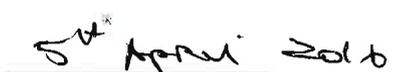
**Proposed:** Shane Knox  
Carried without dissent

**Seconded:** Roisin McGuire

## 5. AOB

There being no other business the meeting concluded. Meeting dates for 2016 will soon be agreed and distributed to all members. It's expected that the next meeting will be held in January with a date to be confirmed.

Signed: 

Date:  5<sup>th</sup> April 2016