



The Care Quality Commission - Consultation on Registration

From April 2010 the Care Quality Commission ("CQC") will begin to put in place the new registration system covering all health and adult social care services in England, both public or independent. The new system is intended to create a fundamental change to the way services are regulated and how that regulation will be used to drive improvements in the services delivered. The registration requirements will set common quality standards across the care sector and will replace the standards currently in place. Cynthia Bower, Chief Executive of CQC, has said:

"Registration will make sure that health and adult social care providers across the country are meeting essential common quality standards. It will make the system fairer, more transparent and make it easier for people to compare providers".

The registration requirements and the underpinning guidance will be legally enforceable. CQC has tough new powers [1] to deal with providers that do not meet the new standards. Services will have to be registered if they are to continue to operate. Registration will be phased in from 2010. The National Minimum Standards and the Standards for Better Health will continue in force until services are required to register. All providers of adult social care services and independent providers of healthcare services will be registered under the new system by 1st October 2010. The NHS is expected to be registered by 1st April 2010.

It is anticipated that, subject to Parliament passing the necessary legislation, registration will be introduced for general practices, dental practices and private and voluntary ambulances from 2011.

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CQC has launched a consultation on the Guidance recently published, [2] outlining what services will need to do to meet the new legally enforceable registration standards. Consultation closes on 24th August 2009. The Guidance focuses on what constitutes a positive outcome for a person receiving care and what services should be doing to achieve that outcome. It is anticipated that this will be used to decide whether a service should be registered, whether it should remain registered or whether further action from CQC is needed.

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Footnotes:

1. See RadcliffesLeBrasseur Healthcare Briefings of June 2009 and February 2009
2. Available on the CQC website

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