



AHCS CONNECT

The AHCS Registrant Newsletter

Regulatory Oversight of AHCS

An important consideration in relation to regulatory organisations is how they themselves are overseen and controlled. This question applies whether one talks about government, law enforcement or professional regulatory bodies.

So, as a regulatory authority for the healthcare science sector, who has oversight of AHCS? The answer is the Professional Standards Authority (PSA). You will find their logo on the AHCS website homepage, and their name crops up in numerous places elsewhere on the site, but you may not have paid it too much attention.

But what is PSA and what does it do?

It is an independent organisation set up to monitor and improve public safety. It oversees the work of ten statutory regulators such as the General Medical Council, the Nursing and Midwifery Council and Social Work England. It also has responsibility for numerous Accredited Registers such as that run by AHCS. All these organisations are subject to supervision and inspection by PSA. Monitoring is carried out annually, with AHCS going through an annual accreditation process, with a detailed review every three years. PSA also carry out interim targeted reviews on each of its nine standards.

These PSA reviews ensure that organisations operate properly, that they meet a defined set of standards for their work, and they are fit and proper organisations which regulate the activities of the professions within their remit. PSA accreditation is a form of protecting patients and the public and it is therefore important that employers and the public chose to employ or work with people who are on an accredited register.

And just as AHCS and other healthcare registers are subject to PSA oversight, rules are also in place to ensure PSA functions as intended. It was set up under the NHS Reform and Health Care Professions Act 2002 and is accountable to the UK Parliament. The Privy Council consults on their budget and it may be called to appear and give account of its work by the Parliament's Health Committee.

This is the first in a planned series of short pieces on regulation of the health care science professions. Look out for future editions where we will look at the regulatory systems and structures currently in place and likely developments on how they operate.

Further information on PSA and the organisations it regulates can be found on their website.

[PSA WEBSITE](#)

[THE 9 PSA STANDARDS](#)

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CSO EQUALITY DIVERSITY & INCLUSION (EDI) PROGRAMME

Recently, the Academy for Healthcare Science and the Chief Scientific Officer, England, jointly appointed an EDI Fellow, Basit Abdul, with the aim of developing an EDI Strategy with a supporting Framework and Toolkit for the NHS Healthcare Science (HCS) workforce in England. This exciting journey will support the HCS workforce to ensure a more equitable, diverse, and inclusive workplace.

We believe the best solutions come from those who are in the heart of the matter and their lived experiences - our Healthcare Science colleagues.

To ensure we incorporate the broadest range of experiences and insights we would like to invite you to join the EDI Programme as a Contributor. The contribution you provide will be invaluable at various stages of the programme. You can register your interest through the link below and we also ask that you share the link with colleagues.

We understand that the day-to-day work in healthcare science is demanding, so we're flexible. Contributors can take part as much or as little as they like. Moreover, we will make all efforts to gather valuable inputs efficiently using digital tools, thereby minimising any potential disruption to day work.

In previous editions of the newsletter, there was also an ask to join the EDI Programme as a Contributor, we have had an overwhelming response so far and thank you for coming forward and offering your time and contribution, this has been invaluable. All of those offers have been collated and analyzed alongside the engagement work with stakeholders and we will be in touch in due course.

The first draft of the Strategy is in progress, and we are currently finalizing the high-impact actions that will act as the outline for the strategy and toolkit. This is where we will need the support of those contributions to make up the Task and Finish Groups to support the delivery.

NHS England has recently published their EDI plan refresh; this can be accessed below.

[REGISTER YOUR INTEREST](#)

[EDI IMPROVEMENT PLAN REFRESH](#)

DID YOU KNOW ABOUT PATIENT SAFETY LEARNING HUB?

An award-winning platform to share learning for Patient Safety!

Engage with content, network with members and be the first to receive exclusive news and invitations.

For more information about this exciting platform:

[PATIENT SAFETY LEARNING HUB](#)

Basit Abdul - EDI Fellow



The Registrant's Mark

Don't forget that as a registrant, you are entitled to use the registrant's mark in your email signature.

By using the AHCS registration mark, which incorporates the Professional Standards Authority accreditation mark, you are demonstrating to members of the general public and other healthcare providers that you conform to national standards of practice in your area of specialism.



Click this box to visit the Registrants' Area on our website to download and use.

Password: Registrants18

Are you signed up to VOX?

Signing up to VOX is a great opportunity to get more news and updates from across the healthcare science profession.

The VOX newsletter is open to anyone and is free to subscribe to.

Click the logo below to head over to our website and sign up!



HCS LEADERSHIP JOURNAL

The HCS Leadership Journal is the Academy's peer reviewed journal. It is published twice a year with plans to increase the frequency in the future.

The Journal supports leadership across the whole healthcare science workforce. It publishes a mixture of articles that inform and inspire those in healthcare science to develop and exercise effective leadership.

Make sure you are receiving this interesting and valuable registrant benefit! The journal is sent out via the AHCS Portal and all past editions are available on our website. The next edition is coming soon!

AHCS WEBSITE

CLICK FOR PREVIOUS HCS LEADERSHIP JOURNALS

BEING ON THE REGISTER

Being on the Register helps to strengthen the profession as a whole, helping the Academy to raise the profile of all healthcare science professionals and their significant contribution to patient care, clinical excellence and healthcare advances.

WHAT IS EQUIVALENCE?

The AHCS equivalence assessment processes are for Healthcare Science practitioners, scientists and higher specialist scientists who have undertaken training, hold qualifications and/or have considerable professional experience who wish to show that these are equivalent to the relevant training programme accredited by the National School of Healthcare Science.

Prospective Equivalence Assessors

The AHCS Equivalence Team is looking to recruit Specialist Assessors, with an emphasis on Life Sciences and Informatics.

The success of the Scientist Training Programme (STP) Equivalence Programme cannot be refuted, but this success is totally dependent on a strong network of dedicated assessors. Our key aim is to speed up the portfolio and interview processes, in response to recent applicant feedback. Additional assessors, particularly in these specialties will greatly improve the applicant's portfolio submission to HCPC registration time.

If you feel you would like to join our team of assessors, please contact:

equivalence@ahcs.ac.uk

for further information.

We look forward to working with you.



HEALTH SERVICE DISCOUNTS

AHCS have just partnered with Health Service Discounts; a platform that offers discounts, cashback and vouchers for healthcare staff!

Health Service Discounts is a dedicated service for all healthcare workers, in any role, to help you save money through our huge range of discounts.

You do amazing things that often go unappreciated. We are here for you, to give you a little something back.

It is free to join and free to use Health Service Discounts and once you are a member, you can use any of the thousands of deals that are on our website.

Save every time you shop on essentials, fashion, energy, insurances, fashion, days out, holidays, mobile phones, and much more.

[HEALTHSERVICEDISCOUNTS.COM](https://healthservicediscounts.com)



WOULD YOU LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE TO OUR NEWSLETTER?

We would love to hear about the important work our registrants do and how they contribute to the transformation of care and impact on the patient journey.

Why registration is important to you?

How has it benefitted your career?

This is a great way to demonstrate how you maintain your professional development!

So, if you have a story to tell and you would like to share it with your colleagues across Healthcare Science, please send your contribution for consideration to:

william.smith@ahcs.ac.uk

GET INVOLVED!

OUR NEW WEBSITE IS COMING SOON!

OUR NEW WEBSITE IS GETTING A NEW LOOK!

- FRESH DESIGN
- EASIER NAVIGATION
- SIMPLIFIED LANGUAGE



KEEP THE CONVERSATION GOING BY FOLLOWING US ON: