



## POSITION STATEMENT ON ROUTES OF ENTRY TO CLINICAL TECHNOLOGIST REGISTRATION

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### 1. Introduction

The Register of Clinical Technologists (the RCT) – formerly the Voluntary Register of Clinical Technologists – was formed in 2000 with the aim of protecting the public by advocating statutory, professional regulation for Clinical Technologists.

The register now holds the details of almost 3000 healthcare professionals who have achieved the standards set out by the RCT through education or equivalence. They abide by a regularly-reviewed Code of Professional Conduct and take part in continuing professional development (CPD) to maintain their professional status for the protection of the public at all times.

The RCT has been accredited by the Professional Standards Authority (PSA) under its Accredited Registers programme since September 2015. Accredited registers are a new approach to regulation recently established by government in preference to statutory registers. In order to obtain accreditation an organisation must show they have met the PSA's specific, demanding standards relating to governance, standards for registrants (including education and training) and management of the register, by way of a rigorous application process. Organisations are then re-accredited each year provided they can show they are still meeting the PSA standards.

The RCT registers technologists working in nuclear medicine, radiotherapy physics, radiation physics, medical engineering, radiation engineering, rehabilitation engineering and renal technology.

The RCT offers two routes to registration:

1. The Approved Training Programme (Route 1) for candidates who have followed an approved graduate training scheme. The Practitioner Training Programme (PTP) is the only programme approved for this purpose in Medical Physics; and

2. The IPEM Clinical Technologist Training Scheme (Education Only) for candidates who have not followed a formal graduate programme but have fulfilled the educational and workplace training as recognised by IPEM. This route is available for both physics and engineering candidates. These candidates bring relevant skills into the NHS and their experience can bring significant benefits to the service.

Candidates enrolling on the IPEM Clinical Technologist Training Scheme are expected to map their previous education and training against the RCT Scopes of Practice (revised and updated based on the PTP learning and work-based outcomes). This will help establish a base upon which further training and education can be developed and provide evidence should the candidate wish to APEL some elements. This will form the candidate's training plan.

Once accepted on to the IPEM Clinical Technologist Training Scheme, the candidate is expected to:

- follow the agreed training plan, which often includes additional educational components;
- maintain a portfolio of evidence; and
- undergo continual assessment by their supervisor.

An independent moderator is appointed to support, and also assess, the candidate annually until the training is complete. The candidate then submits the portfolio for final assessment and attends a Viva examination. Successful completion of results in award of the IPEM Diploma.

Successful completion of either route ensures the candidate is eligible for registration with the RCT (<http://therct.org.uk/>) (or with the Academy for Healthcare Science (AHCS) <http://www.ahcs.ac.uk/>).

In parallel, the RCT offers an 'equivalence route' for candidates who have not followed the either the Approved Training Programme route or the 'Education Only' route, but whose qualifications and experience have been assessed as being equivalent to it (<http://therct.org.uk/equivalence-faqs/>). This will require applicants to show that the requirements of Good Scientific Practice (GSP) (<http://ahcs.se1net.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/AHCS-Good-Scientific-Practice.pdf>) have been met *in the context of the relevant PTP learning outcomes*. This route is particularly useful for those candidates from overseas working in the UK.

## **2. Our position**

IPEM recognises that currently there are insufficient numbers of trainees following a national programme and therefore sees the need for, and supports entrants to, the technologist profession via the Clinical Technologist Training Scheme. These candidates are likely to have some knowledge and relevant experience, e.g. linear accelerator engineer or medical physics graduate but not yet sufficient to apply directly for RCT registration. They are, however, able to, via an appropriate training programme, fulfil the requirements for the IPEM Diploma which facilitates eligibility for registration with the RCT. IPEM believes that, for the foreseeable future, there will continue to be a demand from the service for these individuals therefore, the Clinical Technologist Training Scheme will continue to be required alongside the RCT equivalence route.

## **3. Recommendations**

IPEM strongly believes that all of the existing routes to registration, all of which satisfy RCT standards for safe and effective practice, should remain open for the benefit of the service. IPEM will work constructively with all stakeholders to ensure that this is the case.

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*This document has been prepared and published on behalf of the Institute of Physics and Engineering in Medicine (IPEM) to set out its position on this topic.*

*For further or updated information, please see the IPEM website at [www.ipem.ac.uk](http://www.ipem.ac.uk).*

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