

# CET Rules consultation

## Overview

This consultation seeks stakeholder views on changes we intend to make to our Continuing Education and Training (CET) Rules 2005 (amended in 2012). We are amending our CET Rules in order to underpin the changes that we will introduce at the start of the new three year Continuing Professional Development cycle in January 2022.

This consultation gives stakeholders an opportunity to review our draft amended CET Rules and to provide feedback before we progress with legislative change.

Please see the bottom of this page under 'related' for the document containing the draft amendments to the CET Rules.

## Why we are consulting

We have consulted extensively with stakeholders over changes we intend to make to our current CET scheme. Our aim is to make the scheme more flexible and less prescriptive, allowing registrants greater freedom to undertake learning and development which is relevant to their own personal scope of practice.

We ran a public **consultation in 2018** [</standards-and-cet/fit-for-the-future-lifelong-learning-review/>](#) and more recently another **consultation** [</standards-and-cet/cetreview/>](#) from 28 May to 20 August 2020. On 14 November 2020 we sought approval from the GOC's governing Council to progress with the following changes:

- Replacing the competencies which currently underpin the scheme, to the **Standards of Practice for Optometrists and Dispensing Opticians**. [<https://standards.optical.org/the-standards/optometrists-and-dispensing-opticians/>](https://standards.optical.org/the-standards/optometrists-and-dispensing-opticians/)
- Allowing registrants more control over their learning and development and the ability to tailor it to their own personal scope of practice.
- Enhancing requirements for registrants to reflect on their practice.
- Changing the name of the scheme from CET to Continuing Professional Development (CPD). In line with this, from here on in this consultation, we will refer to any future scheme and activities within it as 'CPD', and the current CET arrangements as 'the current scheme'.
- Introducing a new proportionate system of CPD approvals.
- Consult on a new requirement in our Rules to introduce peer review for dispensing opticians. This would be the same requirement that we currently have for optometrists and contact lens opticians, who are required to do one peer review activity in every three year cycle.

- Remove reference in the Rules specifying a set fee of £45 payable by CET providers annually to the GOC, instead allowing Council to set the fee at their discretion.

This consultation gives stakeholders an opportunity to review the amended CET Rules to ensure that they do not have any unintended consequences or impact and we welcome any feedback. Once this consultation has ended, we will analyse all the responses before finalising the draft amendments. We will present the amended CET Rules, along with the consultation outcome, to the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC). In order to amend our Rules we will need legislative change including approval from the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care and the Privy Council.

## Introduction

### 1 What is your name?

Name

### 2 What is your email address?

If you enter your email address then you will automatically receive an acknowledgement email when you submit your response.

Email

### 3 Are you responding on behalf of an organisation?

(Required)

*Please select only one item*

Yes  No

## Tell us who you are

#### 4 Which category best describes you?

Please select only one item

- Member of the public    Optical patient    Optometrist    Dispensing optician  
 Specialist - therapeutic prescriber    Specialist - contact lens optician  
 Student - optometry    Student - dispensing    Director of an optical business  
 Other

Other please specify

### Organisation details

#### 5 On behalf of which organisation are you responding?

(Required)

#### 6 Which of the following categories best describes your organisation?

Please select only one item

- Optical business registrant    Other optical employer  
 Undergraduate education and training provider    Current CET provider  
 Other CPD provider    Optical professional body  
 Optical defence/representative body    Optical insurer  
 Commissioner of optical care    Healthcare regulator    Other

Other please specify

## Amendments to the GOC's CET Rules

We have prepared draft amendments to our CET Rules to reflect the changes we will now make to the scheme in January 2022. In summary the amended Rules reflect the following changes:

- Changing the name of the scheme to Continuing Professional Development (CPD).
- Using the *Standards of Practice for Optometrists and Dispensing Opticians* to underpin the CPD scheme, grouped into four domains: (1) Professionalism; (2) Communication; (3) Clinical practice; (4) Leadership and accountability.
- Establishing a new requirement for all registrants to carry out a reflective activity on their CPD plan, either part-way through or at the end of the cycle.
- Greater flexibility for registrants to document and plan reflection, and the ability to use another organisation's reflective piece/template to 'count' towards reflective CPD requirements.
- Aligning peer review requirements for optometrists and dispensing opticians, by introducing a new requirement for dispensing opticians to complete one peer review activity per three year cycle.
- Allowing registrants to obtain up to 50% of their CPD points from other sources than GOC approved providers.
- Introducing a more proportionate system of CPD approvals by removing the current requirement for the GOC to approve each CPD activity before registrants complete it.
- Removing reference in the CET Rules specifying a set fee of £45 payable by CET providers annually to the GOC, instead allowing Council to set the fee at their discretion.

### 7 To what extent do you agree that the amended CET Rules reflect the changes we are seeking to make to the scheme in January 2022?

*Please select only one item*

- Strongly agree    Agree    Neither agree or disagree    Disagree  
 Strongly disagree    Don't know

### 8 Are any of the amendments unclear?

*Please select only one item*

- Yes  No

Please provide any additional comments

### 9 Is there anything missing?

*Please select only one item*

- Yes  No

Please provide any additional comments

## Aligning CPD requirements for optometrists and dispensing opticians: introducing peer review for dispensing opticians

Most of the CET requirements we set for optometrists and dispensing opticians are the same. For example, both must obtain 36 CET points over a three year cycle and 18 of these points must be gained through interactive CET events. However, we only require optometrists and contact lens opticians to participate in a peer review activity in each CET cycle.

Moving forwards, we think it is important to align requirements for the professions we regulate, particularly as the scope of work for many dispensing opticians has diversified with many expanding their skillset, for example, by delivering low vision services to patients.

We consulted on introducing this requirement in 2018, and we heard that stakeholders are generally supportive of this. Furthermore, in the last CET cycle (2016-18), 83% of dispensing opticians voluntarily completed a peer review activity, with 53% completing more than one.

The evidence supporting the benefits of peer review is well established in health care and the practice of reflection can help support and embed a culture of learning which in turn helps improve patient care. We are therefore planning to introduce a requirement for one peer review activity for dispensing opticians and to reflect this in the amended CET Rules.

### 10 To what extent do you agree with introducing peer review for dispensing opticians?

*Please select only one item*

- Strongly agree    Agree    Neither agree or disagree    Disagree  
 Strongly disagree    Don't know

## 11 What impact, if any, will introducing a mandatory requirement for peer review for dispensing opticians have?

Please select only one item

- Very positive impact    Positive impact    Neither positive or negative impact  
 Negative impact    Very negative impact    Don't know

Please use the box below to explain your answers above if required, thinking about what potential improvements or barriers this change could create.

## CPD fees

The current CET Rules specify that CET providers will pay the GOC an annual fee of £45 to be a listed provider.

We think the Rules contain unnecessary administrative detail in referencing a set fee. We are proposing to allow Council the discretion to set a CET fee, thereby removing the reference to £45. This will allow more flexibility for the GOC to set a fee structure that is proportionate, taking account of administrative and resource implications and matters such as inflation.

The Rules have therefore been amended by removing reference to £45 and allowing Council to set the fee at their discretion.

## 12 Do you have any comments in relation to amending the Rules to allow Council to set the CET provider fee at their discretion?

Please provide any comments

## Final thoughts

**13** Are there any further comments in relation to our draft CET Rules that you would like to make?

## Further information

**14** Can we publish your response?

(Required)

*Please select only one item*

Yes  Yes, but please keep my name and my organisation's name private  No

## Equality, diversity and inclusion

We welcome consultation responses from everyone, regardless of their background.

We don't want anybody to miss out or be disadvantaged because of the way we work and we try hard to make sure this doesn't happen. The following questions help us to understand who we are reaching with our surveys, so that we can make sure that everybody has the opportunity to get involved.

You do not have to answer these questions (just click 'continue' at the bottom of this page if you don't want to) but we would be grateful if you did. Your answers to these questions will be treated as confidential and held securely in line with data protection requirements. They will not be considered or published alongside your name or anything else that might identify you.

For more information about how we use information like this across the General Optical Council, please visit the **[equality, diversity and inclusion section](#)**

<[https://www.optical.org/en/about\\_us/equality-and-diversity.cfm](https://www.optical.org/en/about_us/equality-and-diversity.cfm)> of our website.

**If you are responding on behalf of an organisation, please do not respond to these questions.**



## 15 Gender

Please select only one item

- Female  Male  Prefer not to say

## 16 Age

Please select only one item

- 16-24  25-34  35-44  45-54  55-64  65+  
 Prefer not to say

## 17 Sexual orientation

Please select only one item

- Bisexual  Heterosexual/straight  Gay/Lesbian/Homosexual  Other  
 Prefer not to say

## 18 Disability

The Equality Act 2010 defines disability as a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial long-term effect on a person's ability to carry out normal day to day activities. Do you consider yourself to have a disability?

Please select only one item

- Yes  No  Prefer not to say

## 19 Gender identity

My gender identity is different from the gender I was assigned at birth.

Please select only one item

- Yes  No  Prefer not to say

## 20 Pregnancy/maternity

Are you pregnant, on maternity leave, or returning from maternity leave?

Please select only one item

- Yes  No  Prefer not to say

## 21 Ethnicity

Please select all that apply

- White - English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British
  White - Irish  
 White - Gypsy or Irish Traveller
  White - other (please specify)  
 White and Asian
  White and Black Caribbean
  White and Black African  
 Any other mixed/multiple ethnic background (please specify)
  Indian/Indian British  
 Pakistani/Pakistani British
  Bangladeshi/Bangladeshi British  
 Chinese/Chinese British
  Any other Asian background (please specify)  
 African/African British
  Caribbean/Caribbean British  
 Any other Black background (please specify)
  Arab/Arab British  
 Any other ethnic group (please specify)
  Prefer not to say

If you have selected 'other', please specify

## 22 Marital status

Please select only one item

- Civil partnership
  Divorced/legally dissolved
  Married
  Partner  
 Separated
  widowed
  Single
  Not stated
  Prefer not to say

## 23 Carer responsibilities

Do you perform the role of a carer?

Please select only one item

- Yes
  No
  Prefer not to say

## 24 Religion/belief

Please select only one item

- No religion
  Buddhist
  Christian
  Hindu
  Jewish
  Muslim  
 Sikh
  Any other religion/belief (please specify)
  Prefer not to say

If you have selected 'other', please specify