

Health Care Chaplains obtain PSA Accreditation for their Register.

The UK Board of Healthcare Chaplaincy's (UKBHC) register has today been accredited by the Professional Standards Authority (PSA) under its Accredited Registers program.

Accreditation means that the UKBHC has met the PSA's demanding standards in the areas of governance, setting standards, education and training, managing the register, providing information and complaints handling.

NHS and other healthcare providers that employ or commission healthcare chaplains can be reassured that those chaplains registered with the UKBHC belong to a register vetted and approved by the Professional Standards Authority for Health and Social Care, an independent statutory body, accountable to Parliament.

Patients, service users and other members of the public cared for by those healthcare chaplains in those same organisations can also be similarly reassured.

In responding to the announcement of the accreditation, the Revd. Dr Derek Fraser, Chair UKBHC, said,

“This is a landmark in the development of healthcare chaplaincy in the UK. It is exciting to arrive here in 2017, after a lengthy journey to enable chaplaincy to be more fully equipped for the challenges ahead. We are delighted to have reached this point and are grateful for our many colleagues who have supported the process of being accepted by the Professional Standards Authority as holding an accredited register for healthcare chaplaincy.

The quality mark will give extra peace of mind for anyone cared for by, or employing a healthcare chaplain, letting them know that anyone who holds the mark is committed to high standards of practice. UKBHC is pleased to offer the quality mark to healthcare chaplains that meet the far reaching standards of our register, as approved by the Professional Standards Authority.”

Harry Cayton, Chief Executive of the Professional Standards Authority said:

“We are very pleased to accredit UKBHC’s register of healthcare chaplains. Bringing healthcare chaplains into a broad framework of assurance is good for patients, service users and the public and is the best way to promote quality.

The program offers enhanced consumer protection to anyone looking for health and social care services, and gives healthcare chaplains the opportunity to demonstrate their commitment to good practice.”

Note to Editors:

1. Choosing to join a register that has been accredited under the Accredited Registers program is an opportunity for healthcare chaplains to demonstrate their commitment to high standards of professional practice. Healthcare chaplains on UKBHC's register will be able to display the Accredited Register quality mark, a sign that they belong to a register which meets the Professional Standards Authority's robust standards.
2. Accreditation will be reviewed annually.
3. Accreditation does not imply that the Authority has itself assessed the merits of individuals on the UKBHC register. That is the responsibility of UKBHC, which will require its registrants to meet high standards of professional practice of the UKBHC Code of Conduct.
4. Accredited Registration is different from statutory regulation because it is voluntary, not compulsory. Practitioners can work in healthcare chaplaincy without being on a register. But Accreditation offers practitioners working in healthcare chaplaincy a means of demonstrating their personal commitment to meeting high standards by becoming registered with UKBHC
5. UKBHC is entitled to use the Authority's accreditation mark so that they can be distinguished easily. This quality mark will give extra peace of mind for those employing healthcare chaplains and those patients and public receiving their care, letting them know that anyone who holds the mark is committed to the high standards of the UKBHC.
6. All Accredited Registers can be accessed through the Professional Standards Authority's website – <http://www.professionalstandards.org.uk/accredited-registers/find-a-register>
7. This program applies to the health sector in the UK and to social care in England.
8. The title Accredited Registers provides simplicity and clarity for consumers and registers alike, and reflects feedback PSA has received. The purpose, principles and practice of the program are focused on providing users of a range of healthcare services and occupations with assurance and consumer protection.

About The UK Board of Healthcare Chaplaincy (UKBHC)

The UKBHC is a register of practising healthcare chaplains whose aim is to:

1. protect the public
2. promote the health, safety and wellbeing of patients and service users
3. promote public confidence and protection through the UKBHC Code of Conduct and the maintenance of the register of UKBHC registered healthcare chaplains
4. advance and disseminate the knowledge and practice of healthcare chaplaincy
5. define and develop professional standards of chaplaincy including education, training and continuing professional development
6. train advisers to support employers in the selection and appointment of healthcare chaplains
7. operate procedures to consider, investigate and assess the professional conduct of registered chaplains
8. maintain and develop systems to promote and accredit continuing professional development and the professional registration of chaplains

The register is run by UKBHC which became UKBHC Ltd is a registered company governed by a board of directors.

There are 12 voting members of the board made up as follows: The ex-officio officers of the three professional organisations, four lay members and four registrant members. The board also appoints a Secretary and a Treasurer.

Further information can be obtained by following the link:

<http://www.ukbhc.org.uk/about>

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