

Consultation on guidance about compliance with the Health and Social Care Act 2008 (Registration Requirements) Regulations 2009

Tell us your views

The questions in this booklet are about the guidance about compliance and the related impact assessments.

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The General Optical Council (GOC) is one of 13 organisations in the UK known as health and social care regulators. These organisations oversee the health and social care professions by regulating individual professionals. We are the regulator for the optical professions in the UK. The Council currently registers around 23,500 optometrists, dispensing opticians, student opticians and optical businesses.

The General Optical Council attended the CQC consultation event on Tuesday 28th July in Croydon and provided input and views on the CQC guidance at that event.

The GOC has therefore only provided feedback on the general questions about the guidance in this response.

General questions about the guidance

1) What do you think about the layout and design of the guidance – is it easy to follow and understand?

Yes

No

Comments:

We note that the guidance is written against eight sets of regulations which, as far as we can gather are all still in draft and are currently being developed by the DH. Several of these are yet to be completed and where they are not completed the DH itself has given advice on the likely content of the regulations. We note we are not being asked to comment in the CQC consultation on the DH regulations.

The CQC has then developed a set of outcomes for each set of regulations indicating what people who use the service should experience. There then follows lengthy guidance on what CQC expect provides to do to meet these outcomes.

On the design of the guidance generally our view is that the guidance is excessively detailed and prescriptive and we question whether this amount of detail is necessary. We would suggest that a rehearsal of the outcomes to achieve each set of regulations would suffice leaving it to each provider to describe/self assess how they deliver those outcomes. Our advice would be that CQC should concentrate on whether the 'outcome' statements are correct.

Another more general comment is that there is minimal reference to the professional healthcare regulators of which the General Optical Council is one, or indeed the Council for Health Regulatory Excellence. In our dealings with CQC it is usually the case that it is not made clear that CQC do not regulate the individual health care professional. Their opening paragraph in almost all of their documents is that the CQC is the independent regulator of health and adult social care in England.....
'to regulate health and adults social care services in England, whether they're provided by the NHS, local authorities, private companies or voluntary organisations.' To prevent confusion, we believe CQC should be encouraged to go on to distinguish itself from the professional nine health care regulators.