



College of Operating Department Practitioners

Position Statement – International Recruitment

The College of Operating Department Practitioners (CODP) is supportive of international recruitment to the Operating Department Practitioner profession therefore enabling the expansion of a diverse and inclusive workforce. As of 10th May 2024, 962 (5.8%) of the 16,629 Operating Department Practitioners registered with the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) applied via the international route¹.

Although there are benefits of increasing the Operating Department Practitioner workforce via the international route, the College of Operating Department Practitioners emphasises the importance of maintaining the principle that, at the point of registration, an Operating Department Practitioner is able to practice fully as a perioperative practitioner, meeting all of the Standards of Proficiency as an Operating Department Practitioner².

For the avoidance of doubt, this means that at the point of registration, an Operating Department Practitioner must be able to meet the needs of service users across the perioperative pathway (Standard 13.14). The College of Operating Department Practitioners view is that this includes meeting the care needs of service users as part of the anaesthesia, scrub and circulating teams, along with providing appropriate one to one care to service users during the immediate post anaesthetic recovery period. Noting that this standard requires the Operating Department Practitioner to be able undertake these roles.

This does not negate the principle that post registration an Operating Department Practitioner may specialise and/or expand their scope of practice so that they no longer meet all the standards of proficiency, only those relevant to their individual scope of practice.

This position statement is primarily aimed at protecting the rights and safety of service users, while also ensuring equity between those accessing the register from the United Kingdom and overseas training and experience.

Finally, Operating Department Practitioners are required to always practice in accordance with their Standards of Conduct, Performance and Ethics³ and must familiarise themselves with the revised standards published in September 2024 in their entirety. In the context of this position statement, the College of Operating Department Practitioners emphasises the specific importance of Standard 6 – Manage risk and Standard 7 – Report concerns about safety. Reporting may include raising a fitness to practice concern with the Health and Care Professions Council.

Those in supervisory or management positions should also pay particular attention to Standard 4 – Delegate appropriately.



College of Operating Department Practitioners

References

- ¹ Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) [Registrant Snapshot - 10th May 2024](#) May 2024
- ² Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) [Standards of Proficiency Operating Department Practitioners](#) September 2023
- ³ Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) [Standards of Conduct, Performance and Ethics](#) September 2024

October 2024