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**THE GENERAL COUNCIL AND REGISTER OF
NATUROPATHS (GCRN)
ASSESSMENT OF EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS
FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (CPD)
ACCREDITATION:**

**REQUIREMENTS, SCORING CRITERIA, AND
DOCUMENTATION**

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ASSESSMENT OF EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (CPD) ACCREDITATION

1. Introduction

The GCRN is the UK regulator for naturopathic practitioners, enhancing public protection by setting standards for registration. All GCRN registered practitioners have demonstrated that they meet, as minimum, national occupational standards for naturopathy practice, mapped into a core curriculum. All GCRN registered practitioners also adhere to the GCRN Code of Professional Conduct.

Initial registration, however, only indicates the meeting of standards at a given point in time. In order to remain on the register, it is important that **registered practitioners demonstrate a continued commitment to standards maintenance, and this is what continuing professional development (CPD) is all about.**

Effective CPD should ensure that practitioners stay up to date on the latest research and advances in healthcare relevant to maintaining safe practise.

This document explains the policy and procedure by which educational materials are submitted to the GCRN and the policy by which they may be assessed for use as a Continuing Professional Development exercise for registered practitioners. The procedures outlined serve to set a consistent standard on which educational materials may qualify and receive accreditation.

GCRN accreditation of a CPD exercise will ensure practitioners that the materials provided have been objectively reviewed by their national regulating body and assessed for quality, appropriateness, and level of academic rigor so they may easily determine which activities will meet their CPD requirements.

2. Definitions

- a. GCRN defines **CPD** ‘as a range of learning activities through which professionals grow and develop throughout their careers to ensure that they retain their capacity to practise safely, effectively and legally within their evolving scope of practice’.
- b. GCRN defines **accreditation** as ‘the action or process of officially recognizing an activity as having adequate status and qualification’.

3. GCRN requirements to consider educational materials for CPD accreditation

Practitioners of various disciplines and educational institutions may submit materials or apply to the GCRN for its review and accreditation. These practitioners may include, but are not limited to:

Medical Doctors
Osteopathic Doctors
Chiropractors
Nurses, Nurse Practitioners
Naturopaths
Licensed Herbalists including Traditional Chinese Medicine
Licensed Mental Health Counselors and Therapists
Homeopaths
Nutritional Therapists

1. Along with the educational material, each applicant must provide:
 - Basic contact information
 - CV
 - A short description of the course content or materials
 - Applicable application fee (See **THE GENERAL COUNCIL AND REGISTER OF NATUROPATHS (GCRN) CPD ACCREDITATION FEE SCHEDULE**)
2. The GCRN will assess the materials and ensure its relevance to the practice of naturopathy according to its:
 - Subject matter and content
 - Practitioner/teacher qualifications and experience
3. The GCRN will assess the materials and ensure its quality and level of academic rigor according to it:
 - Level of depth and complexity of concepts beyond the standard naturopathic curriculum
 - Use of evidence-based claims and research concepts
4. As a minimum standard, educational materials must:
 - Include clear learning objectives
 - Include treatment solutions and/or case studies
 - Provide citations and references provided in AMA format
 - Be free from any commercial bias, product names unless a financial disclosure or statement of personal interest accompanies

- Be the presenter's original material.
- Require at least 30 minutes of the practitioners' time. Activities under 30 minutes or written materials under 5,000 words will not be considered unless the content is included in a conference, seminar, or package whereby the time required for the total exercise will be calculated instead of each individual presentation.

** Based on the average reading speed of 200 words per minute

5. Any CPD activities accessed remotely, such as webinars and demonstration videos, must be followed by a quiz that the practitioner must pass in order to demonstrate involvement and understanding of the course content. If the applicant does not provide at least four multiple choice quiz questions about the learning objectives, with the correct answer designated, the GCRN agrees to write questions on behalf of the presenter in order to administer credits to the practitioner. See the following example requested format:

When recommending L-arginine, the following patient groups must be closely monitored:

- a) Patients with hyperlipidemia
- b) Patients with kidney failure or liver disease**
- c) Obese patients
- d) Patients with nut allergy

The presenters must agree make themselves available to the GCRN staff to facilitate question writing and ensure intended comprehension of the course material if questions are not provided.

6. Additionally, the GCRN may require or consider:
 - If the course has previously been offered through another institution
 - Two professional references that can speak to the applicant's expertise in the related subject if the applicant's materials have not been CPD accredited previously or if they have not previously taught at an educational institution

5. Application response and accreditation

The applicant will receive a response from the GCRN within 2 weeks of submission. Feedback on necessary improvements will be provided if the educational material is deemed inadequate for CPD accreditation. Applicants may resubmit materials once suggested improvements are made without additional fee.

Once accredited, the presenter may state that the educational material submitted has been accredited for CPD by the GCRN, they may use the provided "GCRN Approved" logo in their promotion of the material, and the materials are eligible for feature on the official British Naturopathic Association CPD website.

Accreditation of materials may be subject for re-review after a period of 5 years to ensure practitioners receive the most up-to-date information.

Misuse of the “GCRN Approved” logo and mislabeling of unaccredited materials as accredited may be subject to

6. Practitioner CPD documentation

Practitioners will receive a PDF certificate from the GCRN once they have completed a GCRN accredited exercise or presentation. Documentation of completion or attendance may be:

- A sign-in sheet from a conference, classroom, or other in-person demonstration
- A completed quiz showing adequate understanding of materials accessed remotely like webinars or other on-line learning modules.
 - Quizzes must be at least 4 questions in multiple choice format
 - A ‘passing’ grade of at least 75% must be obtained

The GCRN will keep a spreadsheet of GCRN accredited activities completed by each practitioner for a period of 3 years, but it is the practitioner’s duty to **keep an up-to-date log of their CPD activities** with evidence to demonstrate their participation in each act and ensure they have met the CPD requirements each year.