

THE GENERAL DENTAL COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENT ON ADDITIONAL QUALIFICATIONS – UPDATED APR 08

The Announcement

The General Dental Council met on 6 Dec 07 to consider the Education Committee proposal that: "the GDC should no longer register additional qualifications...this will apply to any additional qualification, whether or not currently recognised...."

The Council agreed, in principle, to abolish its current system for adding additional qualifications to the Register. The GDC will now consult widely on the next steps. The consultation will address whether or not GDC should have a policy at all in this area and, if so, what it should be.

The Impact

Whilst this consultation takes place, additional qualifications, recorded to date, will remain on the Register. New qualifications will *not* be added. Further, new registrations for existing qualifications will *not* be added.

College Qualifications

The Education Committee of the General Dental Council also recommended that "dentists will be permitted to use any additional qualification as long as it is legally held and is not used in any way that is misleading to the public."

This recommendation is subject to the consultation process but, if this recommendation is also approved, the College fully expects that the status of the College's dental qualifications will be enhanced because of the quality assurance mechanisms that we put in place to ensure that our examinations are able to meet the most stringent scrutiny of standards, examiner training and standard-setting of the examination. **Therefore, dentists gaining College qualifications will continue to be able to use the appropriate post-nominal letters and to be able to display the diplomas as they wish within their practices.**

Further information will be publicised on this Website as soon as it becomes available.

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