



Distributed to key stakeholders:

- **Institutes approved in England, Scotland and Wales by AODP for the Dip HE in Operating Department Practice**
- **Council of Deans**
- **Health Professions Council**

May 20th 2004

Dear Colleagues

Re: Credits awarded to professional qualifications for current Registered Operating Department Practitioners prior to the Diploma HE award

After considerable discussion, the Association of Operating Department Practitioners, as the professional body for Registered Operating Department Practitioners is now in a position to advise institutes of the credit level of awards prior to the current Dip HE in Operating Department Practice. We have included a précis of the qualifications which have all been accepted by the Health Professions Council (HPC) in our application of awards as the recognisable qualification for statutory registration.

City and Guilds 752 – Qualification from 1976 was eligible until 1993, the length of programme was two years with formative and summative elements assessed by examinations, practice assessments and clinical viva. The practical assessments and viva were conducted by Medical Practitioners (consultant surgeon/anaesthetist) or approved local examiners. In addition practitioners also needed to pass the hospital training examinations and practical assessments.

Assimilated Grade qualifications – This was an accredited qualification for those practitioners who had completed a recognised pathway of study prior to 1980. The grade awarded equated to the C&G 752 qualification.

NVQ Level 3 in Operating Department Practice – (Programmes that commenced from Sept. 1991 - 2002) Within the framework of NVQ awards this was an unusual and unique award as it retained a two year structured programme that led to registration* with the professional body. Some institutes who delivered this award added an academic element which was levelled at either Certificate HE or Diploma HE level. The skills acquisition and knowledge applied in practice can be equated to diploma level descriptors.

All of the above awards have been evaluated in relation to the 'The Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (January 2001) as cited by the Quality Assurance Agency'. The professional body wishes to see equity afforded to all current practitioners across the profession when applying for further academic study and to ensure that there is no inequality in how credits are assigned to prior qualifications.

Therefore, the AODP has reached a consensus that 120 credits at Certificate HE is the **minimum** that should be awarded to all the above registered qualifications. Although, it has to be acknowledged that some individuals may require undertaking preparation for studying programmes at an appropriate academic level whereas many may come with evidence of further or advanced level experience/study. Individual HEI's will need to review each applicant on their own merits and against pre – requisite entry criteria, but these are the minimum levels that are recommended.

Helen Booth
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AODP

*At the time of writing the AODP are custodians of the register for ODPs with endorsement from the Department of Health, until the transfer to the Health Professions Council in September 2004.

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