

Professional Registration of Industry Personnel (Credentialing) Review

AXREM welcomes the review by NHS England into how life sciences industry personnel are authorised to access primary and secondary care settings – a process referred to as ‘credentialing’.

The review has dual purpose: ensuring safety of patients and staff and maximising the quality and efficiency of NHS-industry interaction. The key aims are to develop a set of national policies and standards and support a system of implementation across the NHS.

AXREM, along with other industry Trade Associations, who are part of the UK MedTech Forum, continues to work closely with NHS England to develop a single, national, professional registration scheme for industry personnel that will ensure the workforce are appropriately educated and trained in NHS values and support patient safety without adding undue burden or cost onto the NHS system or industry itself.

Following the guidance set out by Professor Sue Hill, Chief Scientific Officer, we are working towards the development of a national register structured around four work streams:

- Developing and agreeing national standards of proficiency and conduct
- Developing an independently accredited register
- Tiered criteria for education and training programs
- Implementation within industry and the NHS

We have taken guidance from the Professional Standards Authority (PSA) regarding the development of an accredited register and its underpinning standards and criteria. A number of discussions have already taken place between the UK MedTech Forum and the PSA. We have agreed to work with the Academy for Healthcare Science (who already have an approved registry in place) to develop a Regulation Model, including a Register and an IT System so that there is a process for registering individuals from the workforce of companies operating in the Life Sciences industry. The process will be designed to meet the requirements of the NHS in order to allow personnel entry into NHS premises for the purpose of their work and to provide the NHS with the means to verify the identity and suitability of the individuals.

Many of the processes to achieve the above are already in place with AXREM members who also adhere to the robust AXREM Code of Conduct. The identification of AXREM members visiting Trusts can be named in advance and their authenticity can be provided.

A single, independently accredited system will bring benefits to NHS and industry staff and we would encourage all Trusts to take the guidance provided by Professor Sue Hill and await the findings and recommendations from the Review before deploying local credentialing solutions.