

COLLEGE OF RADIOGRAPHERS

PUBLIC VOLUNTARY REGISTER OF SONOGRAPHERS

Frequently asked questions. Updated March 2019.

Q What is a statutory regulatory body?

A statutory regulatory body such as the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC), Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) and General Medical Council (GMC), is a body whose principal function is to establish and ensure the maintenance of standards of education and training; conduct, performance and ethics for members of the relevant profession. Such bodies are governed by legislation and the HCPC was established under the Health Professions Order 2001. The main aim of the regulatory bodies is to protect the health and well being of people who use the services of the health professionals registered with the body.

Q Is the Society and College of Radiographers a statutory regulatory body?

No, it is a professional body and does not have the legal powers of a statutory regulator.

Q Why do health professionals need a statutory register?

Registration with a regulatory body ensures that health care professionals on their register have met a certain level of training or experience, that they have standards for their professional skills, behaviour and health. Anyone using a protected title must be registered with the relevant body; for example, *Physiotherapist* is a protected title and those using it must be registered with the HCPC.

Q What is a protected title?

Protected titles such as *Radiographer* or *Midwife* may only be used by practitioners eligible for entry onto the relevant statutory register by virtue of their education, training and experience. This can also be done through a grand-parenting route for a limited period when a profession first becomes statutorily regulated. Registrants with the HCPC should maintain their skills and competencies by continuing professional development (CPD) and keep an up-to-date and accurate record of their CPD activities. The terms 'sonographer' and 'ultrasonographer' are not protected and sonography is not a statutorily registered profession.

Q What is the Public Voluntary Register of Sonographers?

It is a Voluntary Register administered by the Society and College of Radiographers. It is not a statutory register.

Q Is the register accredited by the Professional Standards Authority?

No, although the situation is kept under review.

Q What details can members of the public expect to see about me on the national voluntary register for sonographers?

Similar to the HCPC register, the information that can be accessed by the public will be your name and general work location. Only key personnel from the SCoR will be able to access your full details and strict data protection rules and protocols are in place to ensure that your personal information is not improperly divulged to others.

Q Where will the voluntary register for sonographers be kept?

The register will be managed and administered by the SCoR and can be accessed through <http://www.sor.org/practice/ultrasound/register-sonographers>

Q Who can apply to register?

Any health care practitioner involved in the practice, education and research of ultrasound can apply to be registered. This includes sonographers, radiographers, midwives, clinical scientists, technicians, researchers, educationalists, service managers and application specialists involved with medical ultrasound. Exceptions are those individuals who are practising medicine and are currently regulated by the General Medical Council (GMC).

Note: Acceptance on to this voluntary register does not authenticate competence or fitness to practice.

Q I am currently a member of SCoR, what do I need to do?

Current members whose practice includes medical ultrasound are eligible to apply for voluntary registration.

Q I am not a member of the SCoR, can I still apply to register?

Yes, you can apply to register using the form available at <http://www.sor.org/practice/ultrasound/register-sonographers>

All ultrasound practitioners are encouraged to apply; this will strengthen and further support the pursuit of regulation and the protection of the title 'sonographer'. Exceptions are those individuals who are practising medicine and are currently regulated by the General Medical Council (GMC).

Q I am currently employed as a sonographer, but do not have recognised ultrasound qualifications. Can I still apply to join the register?

Yes, you can apply to join the register. All applications will be considered on an individual basis. Potential registrants may be required to provide additional information such as evidence of CPD, and a portfolio of education, training and experience that equates to a recognised qualification and fitness to practice.

Q Will there be a charge?

Current SCoR members and those who are statutorily registered will not be required to pay a registration fee to be entered onto the register. For individuals who are not members of the SCoR, there are varying charges depending on their qualifications and whether or not they

are also statutorily registered. Please see <http://www.sor.org/practice/ultrasound/register-sonographers> for the current Fees Schedule.

Q. I only practice ultrasound for a part of my job and am already registered with the HCPC. Do I need additional registration?

The voluntary register is for practitioners in ultrasound. Whilst voluntary registration is not necessary for individuals already registered with the HCPC (or the NMC), this additional register should help strengthen support for pursuit of regulation for all ultrasound practitioners. If a decision is made to statutorily regulate the practice of medical ultrasound there are likely to be a number of ramifications for current and future registrants, including the need to address questions such as whether to seek entry to two separate parts of the statutory register but this is a long way off.

Q. I am currently registered with the HCPC/NMC, do I have to withdraw my registration with them if I apply to join the voluntary register?

No. If you are currently registered you should maintain that registration. This additional voluntary register is intended to demonstrate how many current registrants are engaged in the practice of ultrasound thus strengthening the case for registration of sonographers as a separate professional group.

Q. Is there a fee for my name to be maintained on the voluntary register?

See fees schedule at <http://www.sor.org/practice/ultrasound/register-sonographers>
There is no fee if an ordinary or associate professional members of the SCoR or if you are statutorily registered. There is also no fee if you are a member of the SVT and obtain Professional Indemnity Insurance through the SCoR. .

Q If my circumstances change in the future and I no longer want to be part of the voluntary register, can I withdraw from it?

You can request to have your details removed by giving written notice of intent to resign from the voluntary register.

Q. Who do I contact to join the voluntary register of sonographers?

The application forms may be found at <http://www.sor.org/practice/ultrasound/register-sonographers>

Contact e-mail address: PVRS@sor.org