

## **DSC standard letters**

### **1. Re Occupational Health clearance**

Dear [name],

I believe that you have requested an Occupational Health assessment from one of our graduates. Dental Schools Council have been working with NHSE to produce a more streamlined Occupational Health Clearance process for UK dental graduates.

Current Department of Health guidance suggests that there should be one occupational health clearance in a dentist's career (unless there is reason to suspect that their blood borne virus status has changed) and this MUST occur prior to commencing treatment of patients in Dental School as noted in:

- Paragraph 50 of the 2007 Department of Health guidance, gateway reference 5514, entitled "Health Clearance for TB, Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C and HIV: New Healthcare Workers".
- Paragraph 8 (p22) of the most recent (2014) guidance "Medical and dental students: Health clearance for Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, HIV and Tuberculosis" (a multi-agency guidance document published in consultation with Public Health England) also states that: "Routine re-screening of newly qualified dentists in the UK will not normally be required if they are new graduates of UK dental schools".

To comply with Department of Health guidance, Dental Schools have therefore agreed with NHSE to provide a validated certificate.

HEOPs (Higher Education Occupational Physicians) helped to set the standards for Safe, Effective, Quality Occupational Health Service (SEQOHS) and therefore the Dental School's initial assessment, whether performed by a member of HEOPS, or a practitioner who otherwise meets the standards of SEQOHS, complies with Department of Health requirements.

On completion of studies, the Dean/Head of School then confirms, along with the graduate that there is no known change in their occupational health status. It is in the interests of all parties to complete the certificate honestly as failure to knowingly disclose a change in status would engender a fitness to practise case with the regulator (GDC).

I hope that this addresses these concerns.

Yours sincerely,

[name]  
Dean/Head of School

## **2. Re safeguarding certification**

Dear [name],

Thank you for your recent request regarding safeguarding certification. The GDC accredit all UK dental degrees leading to registration to be able to work in the UK. Their guidance document (Preparing For Practice v2 2015) states that a specific Outcome related to safeguarding must be met:

“1.8.8 - Identify the signs of abuse or neglect, explain local and national systems that safeguard welfare and raise concerns where appropriate.”

This is the nationally agreed standard and therefore the award of a UK degree is the evidence that this has been acquired. The BDS is an integrated degree and therefore does not have subsections of certification in it, in a similar manner to MBChB.

I hope this explains why dental schools do not issue separate safeguarding certificates.

Yours sincerely,

[name]  
Dean/Head of School