

Reaccreditation policy

a policy paper from the BMAS on reaccreditation following a lapse of membership

Introduction

BMAS members who have achieved full accreditation occasionally have a lapse in membership followed by rejoining the Society. Since full accreditation is reaffirmed every five years by submission of a reaccreditation diary detailing a minimum of 30 continuing professional development (CPD) hours over a five-year period, a lapse in membership would impact on accredited status and the need for either some element of reaccreditation immediately, or a degree of catch-up in otherwise lost CPD.

This paper sets out suggestions for how this process may be achieved equitably.

BMAS CPD costs

As well as running training courses, the BMAS provides CPD for its members in the form of biannual meetings, webcasts of selected meetings, an academic journal and online resources including a general discussion forum. Participant fees generally cover the cost of running meetings, but the cost of online resources and the administrative costs of the organisation are not.

Running an accreditation and reaccreditation system is supported principally by membership fees, therefore any individual membership that lapses incurs a theoretical cost if that member wishes to regain accredited status after a lapsed period of one or more years. The cost of maintaining the BMAS accreditation system during the lapsed period needs to be covered.

The individual costs of maintaining CPD / academic activity may be estimated from the fees attributed to Academic Associates of the BMAS. Therefore in terms of backdated BMAS costs for a lapsed, former accredited, member, these can be calculated by the number of missed years times the cost of being an Academic Associate for those years, perhaps up to a maximum of 5 years.

Academic aspects of missed CPD

The purpose of CPD is to help improve the safety and quality of care provided by the practitioner. Best practice dictates that CPD activities should be shaped by assessments of both professional needs and the needs of the service and the people who use it. In terms of Western medical acupuncture (WMA), a key objective following training is to stay up to date with the latest information regarding the safe use of acupuncture in areas relevant to the individual.

The BMAS considers that accredited status (ie achievement of the BMAS diploma in WMA) is the level of training that should be achieved for practitioners who wish to work in independent practice with WMA. At this level, practitioners would be expected to maintain a good general knowledge of the scope of WMA and the evidence supporting the technique.

The BMAS considers that a minimum of 30 hours CPD over a 5-year period is suitable to maintain accredited status. Any member that wishes to regain accredited status following a lapse of membership and relevant CPD should catch up on this CPD requirement before accredited status is regained.

Summary of recommendations

For a former accredited BMAS member whose membership has lapsed, rejoining and paying the membership fee will confirm the status of membership, but to regain accredited status the member must pay for missed years at the rate of the Academic Associates up to a maximum of 5 years, and make up the required CPD hours to a maximum of 30 hours – the equivalent of an entire [5-year reaccreditation cycle](#).