

Faculty of Health

Annual Self Declaration of *General* “Good Character and Good Health”.

This documents concerns students on courses within the Faculty of Health which involve contact with vulnerable people and which lead to registration (or re-registration) with health or social care regulatory bodies. If you are a student on such a course then you are required to declare annually whether your health and character is sufficiently good to enable safe and effective practice via the e-enrolment process.

This declaration is for the purposes of the Faculty of Health only. You are warned that at the point of “professional registration” the regulatory body concerned may well ask for a further declaration upon which they will make their own independent judgement. Specific issues related to criminal convictions, cautions, reprimands and inclusion on any statutory “exclusion list” concerned with the protection of vulnerable persons are dealt with under a separate self-declaration. If you have such a history which has already been self declared to, and considered by, the Faculty CRB Panel; then **you need not** re-declare it on this form.

If you have a health disability which you have previously declared to the Faculty and which has been duly considered as not detrimental to safe and effective practice then **you need not** redeclare your disability on this form.

Meaning of “Good Health”.

Good health in this context means **not** having health issues that may affect your ability to work safely and effectively with clients. Only health problems that affect your on-going ability to provide safe and effective service to your clients need to be declared.

Temporary health conditions, from which you can reasonably expect to recover, do not need to be declared – e.g. influenza, a broken leg, food poisoning.

Health and social care regulatory bodies do not provide definitive lists of health issues which they consider as incompatible with safe and effective practice. They consider all cases on their individual circumstances. You are required to declare if you have any on-going health issues which may foresee-ably interfere with your ability to practice safely and effectively when working, in placement, with clients or patients.

Guidance notes and reports from various regulatory bodies show that they have considered (amongst others) cases related to persons with the following health issues:- Epilepsy; Diabetes; Depression; Visual impairment; Alcohol or drug misuse; Hearing impairment; Mobility problems; Reduced manual dexterity; Anxiety states; Psychosis; Communicable diseases. These are examples only however and not a definitive list! Having any particular health issues, whether listed above or not, does not mean that you will be automatically considered as incapable of “safe and effective practice”. All regulatory bodies and this Faculty too, consider all cases on their individual circumstances.

Meaning of “Good Character”

Good character, in this context, is concerned primarily with honesty and trustworthiness. Assessment of “Good Character” is based upon consideration of your conduct, behaviour and attitudes. As an aspiring or existing member of a regulated health or social care profession you must at all times behave in a manner justifies public trust and confidence in you as a practitioner; Lack of “Good character” in this context is only relevant if it is judged to impair a registrant’s or aspiring registrant’s fitness to practice.

Guidance notes and reports from various regulatory bodies show that they have, amongst other things, considered the following instances to have called into question the “good character” of their students or practitioners:- Inappropriate relationships with vulnerable persons; Inappropriate behaviour of a sexual nature towards clients or patients or colleagues in the workplace; Voyeurism; Falsification of documents within employment; Failure to maintain documentation; Accessing pornography in working hours; Harassment of others; Publicly professing views and attitudes that are incompatible with the values of health or social care professions; Unprofessional behaviour toward colleagues; committing malicious mischief; Taking other employment whilst on sick-leave; Engaging in sexual acts in public; Failure to report misconduct in others; Plagiarism; Non co-operation within employment disciplinary procedures. The above are examples only and not a definitive list! The purpose of providing the above list is to illustrate examples of where “good character” has been called into question. There will be many other possible examples of behaviour that might be reasonably considered to be incompatible with a claim to be of good character for the purposes of involvement within health or social care professional practice. If in doubt about any issue concerning your character you must declare it. Please be assured that all self-disclosures are only judged following consideration of the individual circumstances of each case.