

Equivalence Guidance

The simplest route to the BPC register is to have completed one of our accredited trainings. However, it is possible for people to apply for equivalence with an MI. This means going through a process to confirm that the training this person has undertaken is equivalent to the BPC accredited trainings.

Equivalence Process

The MI should have an application form for equivalence which collects the relevant information from a potential registrant. There should be a scrutiny committee in place, and advice should be sought from the BPC Registrar who may decide to sit on the committee. The scrutiny committee should all have access to the application form in advance of deciding on equivalence. A written record of how the decision was made, and the outcome, should be kept and shared with the potential registrant in a reasonable time frame.

The MI should have a simple appeal process in place. Those who have not met equivalence and are unhappy with how this decision was made should only contact the BPC if they have exhausted communications with the MI in the first instance.

Equivalence Criteria

The essence of equivalence in this context is that the standard of psychotherapy practice should be equivalent, rather than the precise training activities of the MI needing to be replicated. MIs can view the BPC's training criteria to have an understanding of what is considered equivalent to a BPC accredited course.

MIs have their own ways of assuring this which can vary according to circumstances but must be clear and transparent. It should rely on the professional judgement of the scrutiny committee as to whether the applicant is functioning at an equivalent professional standard to other BPC registrants in the relevant category.

There are however no circumstances in which someone could be registered with BPC as any sort of practitioner who has not had substantial personal therapy. All the other [rare] exceptions from the requirements about who that should be with and for how long, which MIs have some discretion about under equivalence procedure, cannot override this.