General Optical Council

The Effect Of The New Therapeutic Prescribing Specialty Rules On The CET Requirements For Current AS And SP Optometrists.

As a result of the **General Optical Council (Therapeutics & Contact Lens Specialties) Rules 2008** the CET Rules have been amended to allow for those with multiple therapeutics specialties (additional supply, supplementary prescribing, and independent prescribing) to effectively treat these as a single specialty for the purpose of calculating CET points.

For the remainder of the 3 year CET cycle, from the date the Rules came into effect (September 2008), registrants with one or more therapeutics specialty will have to gain a total of 1 specialty CET point for every two months they are on the Register regardless of the number of specialties held. For example, if a person holds both supplementary prescribing and additional supply specialties for the final 12 months of the CET cycle, they will now only be required to gain 6 CET specialty points by the end of the cycle, and not 12 points which would previously have been required as the two specialties were treated separately (i.e. 6 points for each specialty).

As the rules are to be introduced mid-way through a CET cycle, and the rules cannot apply retrospectively, therefore the above method of calculation only applies to the period **after** the new rules came into force.

For the period before the rules came into force, for the purposes of calculating the number of points required, each therapeutics specialty will be treated separately as they were under the previous rules.

For example, if a registrant held both additional supply specialty and supplementary prescribing specialties since the start of the cycle then at the end of the entire 3 year cycle, they will need 20 specialty points for the period before the Rule change occurred (10 points for each specialty) and 8 points for the period after the Rule change making a cumulative total of 28 points for the cycle.

The rules make clear that the above applies for the purposes of calculating the total number of points for an entire CET cycle, and not when CET points are gained within that cycle. In other words, there is no requirement that the number of specialty points relating to the period prior to the rules coming into force need to be obtained during the period before the Rule change, but rather by the end of the entire CET cycle.

The table overleaf provides information on how to work out what points you would require to have by the end of the 3 year cycle. Find the month from which you joined or restored on to the register. Once you have identified your joining or restoration month depending on whether you currently practice one or two specialties will dictate how many points you require.

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Month Joined GOC Register	Number of General CET Point	Total CET point if on Additional Supply or Supplementary Prescribing Register	Total CET Points if on Additional Supply and Supplementary Prescribing Registers	Total CET Points if on Independent Prescribing Register
prior to 2007	36	18	28	-
2007				
January	35	17	26	-
February	34	17	26	-
March	33	16	24	-
April	32	16	24	-
May	31	15	22	-
June	30	15	22	-
July	29	14	20	-
August	28	14	20	-
September	27	13	18	-
October	26	13	18	-
November	25	12	16	-
December	24	12	16	-
2008				
Jan	23	11	14	-
February	22	11	14	-
March	21	10	12	-
April	20	10	12	-
May	19	9	10	-
June	18	9	10	-
July	17	8	8	-
August	16	8	8	8
September	15	7	7	7
October	14	7	7	7
November	13	6	6	6
December	12	6	6	6
2009				
January	11	5	5	5
February	10	5	5	5
March	9	4	4	4
April	8	4	4	4
May	7	3	3	3
June	6	3	3	3
July	5	3	2	2
August	4	2	2	2
September	3	1	1	1
October	2	1	1	1
November	1	0	0	0
December	0	0	0	0

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What happens from the next cycle in 2010?
From the next cycle the points that you will require for CET Therapeutic Specialties and General points are outlined in the table below:

Month Joined GOC Register	Number of General CET Point	CET point for Therapeutics
2010		
January	**35**	**17**
February	**34**	**17**
March	**33**	**16**
April	**32**	**16**
May	**31**	**15**
June	**30**	**15**
July	**29**	**14**
August	**28**	**14**
September	**27**	**13**
October	**26**	**13**
November	**25**	**12**
December	**24**	**12**
2011		
Jan	**23**	**11**
February	**22**	**11**
March	**21**	**10**
April	**20**	**10**
May	**19**	**9**
June	**18**	**9**
July	**17**	**8**
August	**16**	**8**
September	**15**	**7**
October	**14**	**7**
November	**13**	**6**
December	**12**	**6**
2012		
January	**11**	**5**
February	**10**	**5**
March	**9**	**4**
April	**8**	**4**
May	**7**	**3**
June	**6**	**3**
July	**5**	**2**
August	**4**	**2**
September	**3**	**1**
October	**2**	**1**
November	**1**	**0**
December	**0**	**0**