

ARSAC NEWSLETTER

May 2009

CHANGES TO ARSAC CERTIFICATES

A number of changes have been made to the format of ARSAC certificates following the introduction of a new database in January 2009. The changes are intended to improve the presentation of the data held within the certificate schedule so that different types or groups of investigations can be easily identified.

Diagnostic Certificates

The layout of the diagnostic certificate schedule depends upon how the applicant originally requested procedures. The serials are now separated into three categories:

1. Procedures included in Appendix I (NFG Mar 06) where applied for as part of the Functional Group option.

If the applicant applied for procedures using the functional group option; each functional group name will be listed, followed by the specific serials contained within that group. Current certificate holders and new applicants are encouraged to apply to the ARSAC Support Unit requesting functional groups. By doing this, the applicant will receive automatic updates to his/her certificate when new procedures are adopted within the functional group(s) requested. Further information on functional groups can be found in Appendix I Part E of the Notes for Guidance.

2. Procedures included in Appendix I (NFG Mar 06) where applied for individually.

If the applicant applied for specific serials included in Appendix I Parts A or B they will be identified as such and listed separately.

3. Procedures NOT included in Appendix I (NFG Mar 06) whether applied for individually or part of previous Functional Groups.

If the applicant applied for an investigation that is not included in Appendix I Parts A or B, it will be identified as such and listed separately.

If a serial was removed from Appendix I Part A and hence a functional group but remains in clinical use, it will move into this category on the certificate schedule.

Example certificates are shown on the ARSAC website.

Research Certificates

Currently research certificates are issued for 2 years. Applicants can apply for an extension to their research certificate by writing to the ARSAC Support Unit. ARSAC recognises that the many research projects run for more than 2 years and so, from 1 October 2009, research certificates will be issued with a 5-year expiry date. In the rare event that the research runs over this, extensions can be applied for by writing to the ARSAC Support Unit. (See the Frequently Asked Question page, FAQ 13)

Therapy Certificates

The layout of the therapy certificate schedule is unchanged.

RPC Number

There has been a minor change to the RPC format; e.g. 123-4567(25000) is now 123 / 4567 / 25000.

In future, the ARSAC Newsletter will be used to notify certificate holders of any further changes.