

Accreditation renewal report

Standards 1-8

The British Association of Sport Rehabilitators
(BASRaT)

May 2024

Contents

About accreditation.....	3
The Outcome.....	4
About the Register.....	6
Assessment against the Standards	8
Share your experience	18
Impact assessment (including Equalities impact)	18

About accreditation

The Professional Standards Authority (the Authority) accredits registers of people working in a variety of health and social care occupations that are not regulated by law. To become an Accredited Register, organisations holding registers of unregulated health and social care roles must prove that they meet our *Standards for Accredited Registers* (the Standards).

Initial accreditation decisions are made by an Accreditation Panel following an assessment of the organisation against the Standards by the Accreditation team. The Panel decides whether to accredit an organisation or not. The Panel can also decide to accredit with Conditions and provide Recommendations to the organisation.

- **Condition** – Issued when a Panel has determined that a Standard has not been met. A Condition sets out the requirements needed for the Accredited Register to meet the Standards, within a set timeframe. It may also reduce the period of accreditation subject to a review or the Condition being met.
- **Recommendation** – Actions that would improve practice and benefit the operation of the Register, but which is not a current requirement for accreditation to be maintained.

This assessment was carried out against *the Standards for Accredited Registers (April 2016)* and the new Standard 1 introduced in 2021 by the Authority and which includes the ‘public interest test’. Standard One checks eligibility under our legislation, and if accreditation is in the public interest. More about how we assess against Standard One can be found in our *Supplementary Guidance for Standard One*¹.

We used the following in our assessment of the BASRaT:

- Documentary review of evidence of benefits and risk supplied by the BASRaT and gathered through desk research,
- Documentary review of evidence supplied by the BASRaT and gathered from public sources such as its website,
- Due diligence checks,
- Share your experience responses,
- Site visits including discussions with members of staff,
- Assessment of BASRaT’s complaints procedures.

¹ https://www.professionalstandards.org.uk/docs/default-source/accredited-registers/standards-for-accredited-registers/accredited-registers-supplementary-guidance-for-standard-one.pdf?sfvrsn=3e5f4920_6

The Outcome

The Accreditation Panel met on 8 and 15 December 2023 to consider BASRaT. The first meeting was adjourned to allow further information in relation to Standards Two and Six to be requested. When the Accreditation Panel reconvened, it was satisfied that the BASRaT could meet with Conditions all the Standards for Accredited Registers.

We therefore decided to accredit the BASRaT with Conditions.

We noted the following **positive findings**:

- BASRaT demonstrated that it has effective safeguarding policies in place to protect children and vulnerable adults
- BASRaT's monitoring of statutory regulators' disciplinary outcomes assists it to identify and address risks.
- BASRaT's has effective feedback channels within its accredited courses, assisting their improvement.

We issued the following Conditions to be implemented by the deadline given:

Conditions		Deadline
Standard 2	1. BASRaT must develop a process for applicants to appeal registration decisions.	Six months
	2. BASRaT is to review its processes for checking the accuracy and presentation of information on its register.	Three months
Standard 5	3. Decision making within the complaints process should not be made by members of the governance bodies responsible for oversight of complaints.	Six months
Standard 6	4. Independent oversight of BASRaT's regulatory functions by the Ethics Committee, or a similar body, must be strengthened to ensure appropriate governance, quality assurance of decisions, and separation of functions.	Six months
	5. BASRaT is to develop and document its organisational risk management process.	Six months
Standard 8	6. BASRaT must provide brief definitions or links explaining all registrant categories within the register and directory. This will allow users to make informed decisions when searching for registered sports rehabilitation professionals.	Three months.

We issued the following Recommendations to be considered by the next review:

Recommendations	
Standard 2	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. BASRaT should review its registration and renewal pathways to ensure these are user-friendly and intuitive.2. BASRaT should ensure that information about restrictions of practice is available when accessing the register.
Standard 3	<ol style="list-style-type: none">3. BASRaT should ensure clear professional conduct expectations for registrants by including its prohibition of all forms of exploitation and boundary violations.
Standard 5	<ol style="list-style-type: none">4. BASRaT should consider making their complaints handling functions more prominent on the website homepage, with clear links provided.
Standard 7	<ol style="list-style-type: none">5. BASRaT should consider including risks and mitigation measures for adjunctive therapies practiced by registrants on its risk register.
Standard 8	<ol style="list-style-type: none">6. BASRaT should enhance accessibility of information related to registration, complaints processes, and other key functions.7. BASRaT should produce up-to-date guidance on its accreditation and the Accredited Registers programme. This would better inform the public, registrants, and other stakeholders about the quality mark.

About the Register

This section provides an overview of BASRaT and its register.

Name of Organisation	BASRaT
Website	www.basrat.org
Type of Organisation	Unincorporated professional body
Role(s) covered	Sports rehabilitators
Number of registrants	1290 as of 1 January 2024
Overview of Governance	Executive Committee with lay membership supported by Chief Executive Office and Ethics Committee
Overview of the aims of the register	Representing professionals working in neuromusculoskeletal (NMSK) healthcare, exercise rehabilitation and sports injury, and protecting the public through high-quality, graduate-level education and continuing professional development of highly-skilled practitioners.

Inherent risks of the practice

This section uses the criteria developed as part of the Authority's *Right Touch Assurance tool*² to give an overview of the work of Sports rehabilitators.

Risk criteria	Sport Rehabilitators
<p>1. Scale of risk associated with Sport Rehabilitators</p> <p><i>a. What do Sport Rehabilitators do?</i></p> <p><i>b. How many Sports</i></p>	<p>a. A Sport Rehabilitator is a healthcare practitioner who specialises in musculoskeletal management, exercise-based rehabilitation and fitness. They help people suffering from pain, injury or illness involving the musculoskeletal system. They work with people of all ages to maintain health and fitness, recover from and prevent injury and reduce pain using exercise, movement and manual based therapeutic interventions.</p> <p>b. As 1 January 2024 there are 1290 registrants. The total number of Sport Rehabilitators in the UK is likely to</p>

² https://www.professionalstandards.org.uk/docs/default-source/publications/policy-advice/right-touch-assurance---a-methodology-for-assessing-and-assuring-occupational-risk-of-harm91c118f761926971a151ff000072e7a6.pdf?sfvrsn=f537120_14.

<p><i>Rehabilitators are there?</i></p> <p><i>c. Where do Sports Rehabilitators work?</i></p> <p><i>d. Size of actual/potential service user group</i></p>	<p>be more, although we could not find definitive data on this.</p> <p>c. Sports Rehabilitators may work in a range of settings. Roles in the military include Exercise Rehabilitation Instructor. Within the NHS, they may work as a Rehabilitation Assistant or a Musculoskeletal Clinician. Some will work within the private sector, for example as a Rehabilitation Therapist. They may also work within schools, and sports more broadly ranging from grass roots groups to sports professionals. Some work in charities and occupational rehabilitation settings.</p> <p>d. BASRaT told us that its registrants would typically see 30-70 service users per week. We did not identify data about the total number of services users in the UK, but since Sports Rehabilitators work in a range of settings with people of all ages, it is likely to be a significant number.</p>
<p>2. Means of assurance</p>	<p>Many sports rehabilitators such as those working within the NHS are likely to be included within clinical governance systems. Other employers such as schools will also have checks in place for areas such as criminal records. For those working privately or independently, registration may be a primary means of assurance since sports rehabilitators are not required by law to have a license or registration to practise.</p>
<p>3. About the sector in which sports rehabilitators operate</p>	<p>Sports Rehabilitation is closely aligned with the field of sports and exercise medicine. The Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh describes sports and exercise medicine as a ‘new’ specialty, promoting physical activity for health, providing Musculoskeletal expertise, and support for team sports³.</p>
<p>4. Risk perception</p> <p>• <i>Need for public confidence in sports rehabilitation?</i></p>	<p>Sports Rehabilitators may work with children and/or vulnerable adults. The Truth Project’s thematic report into <i>Child sexual abuse in sports</i>⁴, published as part of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse, highlighted that ‘enabling factors for abuse to take place in sport were similar to those found in our other thematic reports into abuse in other contexts, and included: perpetrators</p>

³ [Sports & Exercise Medicine \(SEM\) | Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh \(rcpe.ac.uk\)](https://www.rcpe.ac.uk)

⁴ <https://www.iicsa.org.uk/key-documents/19515/view/truth-project-thematic-report%3A-child-sexual-abuse-sports-executive-summary.pdf>

• *Need for assurance for employers or other stakeholders?*

actively approaching parents outside of the sports context to look after or take children out unsupervised; perpetrators arranging overnight stays with children; and a lack of supervision or oversight of adults working in sports, particularly those operating as leaders or as private coaches or instructors.’ These risks are not specific to sports contexts and are also being addressed as part of the Authority’s work on criminal records checks for self-employed registrants of Accredited Registers but highlight the need for public confidence and protection within sports rehabilitation.

Assessment against the Standards

Standard 1: Eligibility and ‘public interest test’

Summary

- 1.1 We are in the process of assessing all current Accredited Registers against Standard One, which was introduced in July 2021. Decisions about Standard One for current Accredited Registers can be made by the Accreditation Team if no concerns are identified.
- 1.2 We completed our Standard One assessment in June 2022. We found that the BASRaT’s register falls within the scope of the Accredited Registers programme. We considered that the work of sports rehabilitators can be beneficial. We found it is in the public interest to have registers of practitioners who meet appropriate standards of competence, conduct, and business practice, as required by BASRaT.
- 1.3 Consequently, the Accreditation Team found that Standard One was met. We did not identify any new information that could affect Standard One being met, during our assessment of Standards 2 to 8.

Standard 2: Management of the register

Summary

The Accreditation Panel found that Standard Two was met. It issued the following Condition and Recommendations:

Condition:

1. BASRaT must develop a process for applicants to appeal registration decisions. This is to be implemented within six months.
2. BASRaT is to review its processes for checking the accuracy and presentation of information on its register. This is to be implemented within three months.

Recommendations:

1. BASRaT should review its registration and renewal pathways to ensure these are user-friendly and intuitive.
2. BASRaT should ensure that information about restrictions of practice is available when accessing the register.

Accreditation Panel findings

- 2.1 BASRaT has two grades of registrant (Graduate Registered Member (GRM) & Graduate Registered Allied Health Professional), and several non-registrant grades of membership.
- 2.2 BASRaT's website provides registration criteria for practitioners trained in the UK, registered with an international partner, or dual registration in the UK as an Allied Health Professional. We noted that it could be difficult to find information about its requirements to join and renew registration, so issued the following Recommendation:
 - BASRaT should review its registration and renewal pathways to ensure these are user-friendly and intuitive.
- 2.3 We check that Accredited Registers have an appeals process for rejected applications. BASRaT told us that it did not have this as applicants for GRM may either pass or fail the registration exam. Those who do not pass may retake the exam. We considered the possibility that applicants may provide information that leads to BASRaT denying an application, for example:
 - An applicant might have a past caution or conviction they believe is irrelevant to their practice (e.g. a minor traffic offense), minor health issue or other past incident falling under BASRaT's Fitness to Practise concerns, especially if it indicates a pattern of behaviour.
 - An applicant might submit a trauma care qualification that they assume is equivalent but does not meet BASRaT's specific standards.
- 2.4 As appeals processes are required to meet this Standard, the Accreditation Panel issued the following Condition:
 - BASRaT must develop a process for applicants to appeal registration decisions. This is to be implemented within six months.
- 2.5 BASRaT ensures that registrants maintain competence through its requirements to undertake Continued Professional Development (CPD) and conducts an annual audit of 5% of its registrants. Failure to meet BASRaT's CPD standards may result in removal from the register.
- 2.6 BASRaT is part of the [Accredited Registers Collaborative's](#) information sharing protocol and will notify other registers if someone is removed from their register through disciplinary actions. BASRaT also monitors for disciplinary removals of

- Allied Health Professionals from the relevant statutory regulators. We noted their monitoring could help identify relevant risks within sports rehabilitation.
- 2.7 The BASRaT public register allows users to search for registered sport rehabilitators. It displays registrants' names, locations, registration numbers, member status (active/inactive) with renewal/expiry dates, and any disciplinary actions. This information can be used to verify a practitioner's credentials. At the time of our assessment, one registrant was under interim suspension. This was noted in their register entry.
- 2.8 The Accreditation Panel considered that it was not immediately obvious how to access BASRaT's Fitness to Practise notices page if not directly accessed from a register entry. It also noted that the meaning of 'disciplinary actions' was not immediately clear from the outcomes page, and so issued the following Recommendation:
- BASRaT should ensure that information about restrictions of practice is available when accessing the register.
- 2.9 Our review of approximately 8% of the register identified areas for improvement. We noted that unclear definitions for headings, particularly regarding the "inactive" status, could lead to confusion for users. Additionally, some individuals listed as inactive have been on the register for a significant amount of time. We considered that to ensure alignment with data protection principles, a clear justification for such extended listings was required. Finally, the review identified minor discrepancies, such as inconsistencies in practice locations and potential duplicate entries.
- 2.10 Our check of BASRaT's separate "Find a Practitioner" directory noted that many entries appeared to be out of date.
- 2.11 Registrants are required to update and confirm their details at annual renewal and may update directory entries throughout the year. We were not sure what action BASRaT took to ensure that its register, and directory, remained accurate and informative. The Accreditation Panel determined that BASRaT's approach could lead to inaccuracies. To address the above points, it issued the following Condition:
- BASRaT is to review its processes for checking the accuracy and presentation of information on its register. This is to be implemented within three months.
- 2.12 BASRaT has reinstatement policies for registrants who have lapsed their registration or have been removed from the register following disciplinary action. This may involve review by BASRaT's fitness to practise panel, followed by completing a new application for registration and passing BASRaT's registration exam.

Standard 3: Standards for registrants

Summary

The Accreditation Panel found that Standard Three was met. It issued the following Recommendation:

Recommendation:

1. BASRaT should ensure clear professional conduct expectations for registrants by including its prohibition of all forms of exploitation and boundary violations.

Accreditation Panel findings

- 3.1 BASRaT registrants must agree to comply with BASRaT's Terms and Conditions of membership at point of application, and annual renewal. This includes compliance with BASRaT's *Standards of Ethical Conduct and Behaviour* (the SECB)⁵, registration with a statutory regulator (where applicable) and maintaining appropriate professional indemnity insurance.
- 3.2 BASRaT's safeguarding policy⁶ provides concise guidance on the actions that registrants must take when risks to children and vulnerable adults are identified. Registrants are required to act in line with their employer's policies or if working independently, to be aware of and to contact their local statutory authority. BASRaT's Fitness to Practise guide makes clear that it will refer any safeguarding concerns to local authorities, or to the police as necessary. BASRaT's Registrar will take independent legal advice to inform any decisions, if, for example, against the wishes of the person raising a concern.
- 3.3 We observed that the SECB clearly prohibits financial exploitation of clients by registrants, but its guidelines on preventing sexual misconduct, exploitation, or inappropriate relationships were not as explicit. Although BASRaT's Fitness to Practise (FTP) rules unequivocally state that such actions constitute grounds for impairment, the lack of clarity in the SECB might compromise its effectiveness in upholding high standards among registrants. We issued the following Recommendation to address this:
 - BASRaT should ensure clear professional conduct expectations for registrants by including its prohibition of all forms of exploitation and boundary violations.
- 3.4 BASRaT publishes guidance setting out the scope of practice for its Graduate Sports Rehabilitators⁷. Our separate Standard One assessment noted that registrants may practice adjunctive therapies, for example, acupuncture and sports massage. We noted under Standard 7 that as these practices may not

⁵ [standards_of_ethical_conduct_and_behaviour_\(secb\)_october_2019.pdf \(azureedge.net\)](#)

⁶ [Standards of Ethical Conduct and Behavior \(azureedge.net\)](#)

⁷ [BASRaT Role Delineation Update.PDF \(azureedge.net\)](#)

be addressed within the core scope of practice, these should be included within BASRaT's risk management.

Standard 4: Education and training

The Accreditation Panel found that Standard Four was met.

Accreditation Panel findings

- 4.1 BASRaT ensures the competence of its Graduate Sport Rehabilitators (GSRs) through a two-step process. First, applicants must hold a BASRaT-approved qualification, either a BASRaT-accredited degree earned in the UK or an equivalent qualification recognised through their International Arrangement. This arrangement involves a thorough evaluation of programmes to ensure graduates possess the necessary knowledge, skills, and professional conduct expected of a GSR. Second, all applicants must pass the BASRaT registration exam, demonstrating their individual suitability for practice. For Graduate Registered Allied Health Professional (AHP) registrants, their training is assured by registration with the appropriate statutory body.
- 4.2 The quality of training courses leading to GSR eligibility is assured through the BASRaT Accreditation Process outlined within its Educational Framework. This framework sets out the criteria for course accreditation, including duration, content requirements, clinical placement expectations, and alignment with the BASRaT GSR Role Delineation. Assessment of a course for accreditation involves documentary reviews, site visits, and evaluation of a report submitted by the BASRaT Accreditation Officer to the Executive Committee.
- 4.3 Our review noted that BASRaT Executive Committee members may be involved in supporting the accreditation of courses. Final assessments are made "to the BASRaT Executive Committee via the Accreditation Officer regarding the programme's ability to produce graduates who are 'fit for purpose' as sports rehabilitators." Since some Executive Committee members are professionals who represent training providers, there was potential for real or perceived conflicts of interest. The Condition issued under Standard Six addressed the need for greater separation of regulatory and membership functions to mitigate this risk.
- 4.4 An important mechanism for ensuring consistent standards is that all practitioners, regardless of their initial registration route (graduate, AHP, or international), must pass the Registration Exam. This exam verifies their competence to practise as a sports rehabilitator.
- 4.5 BASRaT maintains the quality of its accredited education and training programmes through a rigorous process. This includes ongoing communication with institutions, regular evaluation of programme changes to ensure continued alignment with the BASRaT Educational Framework, and re-accreditation for programmes that deviate from requirements. Additionally, adherence to the framework is assessed through reviews of Standards documentation. All

programmes undergo periodic re-accreditation cycles that coincide with institutional revalidations.

- 4.6 These programmes, being part of UK higher education, are already subject to internal quality assurance and external scrutiny from various bodies, including an External Examiner, the Office for Students (OfS), and the Office of the Independent Adjudicator for Higher Education (OIA). International scrutiny is further provided through an agreement in Athletic Training, Therapy, and Sport Rehabilitation.
- 4.7 BASRaT's free student membership offers a feedback channel that has influenced programme re-accreditation and investigations into standards. Additionally, the registration exam serves as an independent quality check, highlighting areas for potential improvement in training programmes. Institutions are required to report major programme changes and undergo BASRaT re-accreditation alongside their standard revalidation cycle. This cycle is governed by internal quality assurance teams and external educational guidelines, such as those set by the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA).
- 4.8 We also noted that BASRaT's Educational Framework includes requirements for providing care for diverse populations, ensuring cultural competency among its graduates.

Standard 5: Complaints and concerns about registrations

The Accreditation Panel found that Standard Five was met. It issued the following Condition and Recommendation:

Condition:

1. Decision making within the complaints process should not be made by members of the governance bodies responsible for oversight of complaints. This must be implemented within six months.

Recommendation:

1. BASRaT should consider making their complaints handling functions more prominent on the website homepage, with clear links provided.

Accreditation Panel findings

- 5.1 BASRaT complaints procedures and guidance may be accessed from its "Feedback / Raising a Concern" webpage.
- 5.2 The BASRaT complaints procedures outline how to submit complaints, the investigation process, and potential outcomes. Thresholds for escalating concerns are outlined in their "Fitness to Practise: A guide for the public and employers" document. This guide provides examples of concerns that fall outside the scope of fitness to practise, such as contractual disputes or interpersonal conflicts. In such cases, mediation might be facilitated between the registrant and complainant with the help of a BASRaT Ethics Committee member (separate from the Executive Committee).

- 5.3 The policy also highlights cases that are likely to be investigated under their formal three-stage process. Examples include allegations of sexual misconduct, exploitation, competency issues, or health concerns that impact a registrant's ability to practise safely.
- 5.4 BASRaT allows for appeals of decisions at various stages, including initial review, formal investigation, and fitness to practise panel decisions. Interim Orders decisions may not be appealed but are subject to regular review. Appeals panels exclude individuals who participated in any previous decision. BASRaT's Fitness to Practise Panel Sanctions Guidance outlines the range of sanctions available, such as taking no further action, issuing a caution order, conditions order, suspension order, or striking off order. Each sanction is clearly defined and appropriate usage is described. An appendix details the range of conditions that may be imposed for reasons related to health, conduct, behaviour, or competency.
- 5.5 While the complaints information is accessible from the "Contact" dropdown menu on all website pages, we noted this may not be prominent enough for those specifically seeking to raise a concern. The Accreditation Panel issued the following Recommendation:
- BASRaT should consider making their complaints handling functions more prominent on the website homepage, with clear links provided.
- 5.6 We were concerned that all stages of complaints investigations involved members of the BASRaT Executive Team and Committee, giving rise to potential conflicts of interest.
- 5.7 BASRaT highlighted its commitment to promoting equality, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) in staff and officer recruitment, however we considered that BASRaT should develop recruitment and training programmes for individuals involved in complaints processes. As previously noted, concerns are currently managed by the Registrar and members of the Executive Committee. We have recommended that BASRaT divest these functions from its governance structure, and recruitment and training will be a key component of this change.
- 5.8 BASRaT had noted an increase in allegations of sexual boundaries violations reported by related statutory bodies. This highlighted the importance of ensuring those involved in complaints processes possess the necessary skills and knowledge to manage such high-risk concerns.
- 5.9 We have issued a Condition under Standard 6 for BASRaT to achieve greater separation in oversight of regulatory functions. For Standard 5, the Accreditation Panel determined that:
- Decision making within the complaints process should not be made by members of the governance bodies responsible for oversight of complaints. This must be implemented within six months.

Standard 6: Governance

The Accreditation Panel found that Standard Six was met. It issued the following Conditions:

Conditions:

1. Independent oversight of BASRaT's regulatory functions by the Ethics Committee, or a similar body, must be strengthened to ensure appropriate governance, quality assurance of decisions, and separation of functions. This is to be implemented within six months.
2. BASRaT is to develop and document its organisational risk management process. This to be completed within six months.

Accreditation Panel findings

- 6.1 BASRaT is governed by its Executive Committee, and is overseen by its Ethics Committee, whose purpose is to provide independent oversight and to investigate complaints made about the organisation.
- 6.2 The Executive Committee's elected officers include the Secretary, CPD, Institution Liaison, Student Liaison, Accreditation, Quality, and two Lay members. The Ethics Committee has four members, who are not sports rehabilitators. Members of both groups are required to declare any interests and abide by BASRaT's Conflicts of Interest policy. Minutes from Executive Committee, Ethics Committee and Annual General Meetings are published.
- 6.3 BASRaT's website describes the Ethics Committee as 'an independent auditing firm regarding the function of BASRaT as a professional body and regulator⁸. We were not sure how the Ethics Committee fulfilled this role, or demonstrated independent oversight of key regulatory functions, outside of its review of BASRaT's Annual Report. We have issued a Condition, below, requiring BASRaT to address this.
- 6.4 BASRaT's Executive Committee is responsible for decisions about complaints, registration and education and training. There is close involvement by members of the Executive Committee in the complaints process, including adjudication. Although BASRaT receives a relatively small number of complaints a year, we considered there was not sufficient separation of functions between governance and complaints handling. We were also unclear whether there would be enough lay people to sit on the different Panels required for an appeal of a fitness to practise decision, and how they were properly trained for the role.
- 6.5 Although there is a separate Accreditation team with responsibility for education and training delivery, which can make recommendations for the accreditation of training providers, the Executive Committee has overall decision-making authority. This presented a potential conflict of interest between professional and regulatory functions.

⁸ <https://www.basrat.org/home/ethicsandregulation>

6.6 The Accreditation Panel determined that to ensure independent oversight of regulatory functions, it needs to be clearer how the Ethics Committee achieves its role as described. Having Terms of Reference, and clear reporting lines between the Executive and Ethics Committees, would help achieve this. The Accreditation Panel issued the following Condition:

- Independent oversight of BASRaT's regulatory functions by the Ethics Committee, or a similar body, must be strengthened to ensure appropriate governance, quality assurance of decisions, and separation of functions. This is to be implemented within six months.

6.7 BASRaT has established policies addressing Equality, Diversity & Inclusion, and Data Protection. Business continuity arrangements are also in place. We noted however that BASRaT did not have a documented organisational risk management process, making it unclear how BASRaT identifies, manages, and escalates risks to the operation of the register. To address this, we issued the following Condition:

- BASRaT is to develop and document its organisational risk management process. This to be implemented within six months.

Standard 7: Management of the risks arising from the activities of registrants

The Accreditation Panel found that Standard Seven was met. It issued the following Recommendations:

Recommendations:

1. BASRaT should consider including risks and mitigation measures for adjunctive therapies practiced by registrants on its risk register.

Accreditation Panel findings

7.1 BASRaT maintains a register that covers risks relating to registrants' personal behaviour, technical competence and business practice. These are reviewed and updated periodically. When assessing Standard One, we conducted a 'deep dive' of risks involved in the use of electrotherapeutic modalities, noting how effective training can mitigate these.

7.2 However, an area for improvement was identified. BASRaT registrants may commonly practice adjunctive therapies like acupuncture or sports massage. These were not explicitly covered within its [role delineation](#) or addressed within its risk matrix. To ensure comprehensive risk management, we issued the following Recommendation:

- BASRaT should consider including risks and mitigation measures for adjunctive therapies practiced by registrants on its risk register.

7.3 We noted that BASRaT's had identified a recent increase in sexual misconduct cases heard by statutory regulators of related healthcare roles and acknowledged an increased likelihood of this risk in response. Their actions,

such as reviewing relevant hearings and concerns, providing training for registrants, and disseminating information, were acknowledged.

- 7.4 BASRaT's website provides clear definitions of sports rehabilitation and the populations their registrants work with. The website also emphasizes the importance of registrants assessing treatment risks and benefits, including unforeseen outcomes. This aligns with the role delineation document, which requires registrants to work within their scope of practice and refer to other healthcare professionals when necessary.

Standard 8: Communications and engagement

The Accreditation Panel found that Standard Eight was met. It issued the following Conditions and Recommendations:

Condition:

1. BASRaT must provide brief definitions or links explaining all registrant categories within the register and directory. This will allow users to make informed decisions when searching for registered sports rehabilitation professionals. This is to be completed within three months.

Recommendations:

1. BASRaT should enhance accessibility of information related to registration, complaints processes, and other key functions.
2. BASRaT should produce up-to-date guidance on its accreditation and the Accredited Registers programme. This would better inform the public, registrants, and other stakeholders about the quality mark.

Accreditation Panel findings

- 8.1 Our assessment found BASRaT's website generally clear and accessible, providing easy access to the register, directory, and sports rehabilitation information. However, areas for improvement were identified regarding the presentation of the register and directory, particularly the distinction between different registrant grades (e.g., "graduate" for GSRs).
- 8.2 Currently, the grades associated with registrants (such as "graduate") are not fully explained within the register and directory. This lack of clarity could cause confusion for users searching for registrants with specific qualifications. For instance, a user seeking a qualified sports rehabilitation practitioner might be unsure of the experience level indicated by "graduate" without additional information. We issued the following Condition:
- BASRaT must provide brief definitions or links explaining all registrant categories within the register and directory. This will allow users to make informed decisions when searching for registered sports rehabilitation professionals. This is to be completed within three months.

8.3 While commending BASRaT's efforts to provide clear information, we identified areas where accessibility of key information could be improved. This includes information related to registration, complaints processes, and other important functions. Easier access to this information would enhance user experience. To improve user-experience, we issued the following Recommendation:

- BASRaT should enhance accessibility of information related to registration, complaints processes, and other key functions.

8.4 BASRaT's active participation in relevant professional groups was noted. Additionally, we observed that the website's quality mark information hadn't been updated since 2015. To promote transparency and accuracy, we issued the following Recommendation:

- BASRaT should produce up-to-date guidance on its accreditation and the Accredited Registers programme. This would better inform the public, registrants, and other stakeholders about the quality mark.

Share your experience

9.1 We did not receive any Share Your Experience submissions relating to BASRaT in the reporting period.

Impact assessment (including Equalities impact)

10.1 We carried out an [impact assessment](#) as part of our decision to renew BASRaT's accreditation. This impact assessment included an equalities impact assessment as part of the consideration of our duty under the Equality Act 2010.

10.2 BASRaT's accreditation could positively influence health and fitness services accessibility for people with protected characteristics. Their practices and policies are designed to ensure that sports rehabilitators cater to a diverse clientele, including those with specific health needs or disabilities, thereby enhancing accessibility and inclusivity in health and fitness services. The broad benefits of exercise and physical activity, as advocated by BASRaT's registrants, positively impact various groups, including those with protected characteristics.

10.3 Within our Standard One assessment we noted limitations in evidence for some core practices, such as sports massage, and adjunctive therapies such as acupuncture, cryo and thermotherapies. These highlighted the importance of ongoing research, training, and development in sports rehabilitation practices, especially for adjunctive therapies. It underscores the need for BASRaT and its registrants to continually update their practices based on emerging evidence and to communicate the benefits and limitations of various therapies accurately to service users. This awareness is crucial for maintaining public trust, ensuring patient safety, and upholding professional standards in sports rehabilitation.