RCVS | SETTING VETERINARY STANDARDS

PRESENTER:
Mrs Kirsty Williams,

AUTHORS:
Mrs Kirsty Williams,
Mr Jordan Nicholls,
Dr Linda Prescott-Clements,
Mr Duncan Ash,
Mr Kieran Thakrar

AGENCY:
Royal College of
Veterinary Surgeons
(RCVS, UK)

INTRODUCTION:

Current methodologies for accrediting veterinary degrees worldwide are "input" heavy which can create a tick box mentality when assessing standards and has the potential to allow for only limited demonstration of programme quality. The RCVS has developed a new methodology taking a more risk-based approach with an increased focus on "outcomes evidence" and the removal of the Self-Evaluation Report (SER).

METHOD:

A comprehensive review of the RCVS accreditation standards and methodology for veterinary programmes was carried out, including:

- Literature review.
- Semi-structured interviews with vet schools, regulators within the veterinary profession and other professional regulators.
- Working group made up of representatives from vet schools, members of the profession, veterinary students and representatives from other quality assurance agencies.
- Reviewed by RCVS governing committees.
- Consultation with members of the veterinary profession, both in the UK and overseas.

An increased focus on outcomes evidence providing quality assurance and flexibility across different delivery models, improving transparency of decision-making and recognition of educational good practice and innovation.

The use of the database removes the need for a Self-Evaluation Report (SER). Evidence submitted is categorised as "input", "process" and "outcomes" with the emphasis on "outcomes" evidence.

The standards are divided into six domains, with each domain subdivided into standards. Repetition between standards has been removed. They have been mapped against other international veterinary agency standards.

The site visit is planned on a risk basis prioritising those areas for which there is limited evidence. The site visit includes meetings with key stakeholders and can take from 2 to 5 days.

The evidence for each standard is submitted through a repository data base hosted by the RCVS, with access at all times. Precise indexing allows for quick deposit and retrieval of evidence.

Focusing on outcomes based evidence rather than measuring inputs looks beyond the policy documents and ensures that not only does a policy exist but explores how it is implemented.

TIME FOR CHANGE

How the RCVS is changing the landscape of veterinary degree programme accreditation

INDIVIDUAL STANDARDS ARE DIVIDED ACROSS 6 OVERARCHING DOMAINS

- THE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT
- ORGANISATION, CULTURE AND VALUES
- EDUCATIONAL GOVERNANCE AND QUALITY IMPROVEMENT
- SUPPORTING STUDENTS
- SUPPORTING EDUCATORS
- CURRICULUM AND ASSESSMENT