

**INTRODUCTION**

The HCPC has assessed the length of time that International route registrants remained registered for following their first registration. This analysis is hoped to contribute to wider workforce planning efforts.

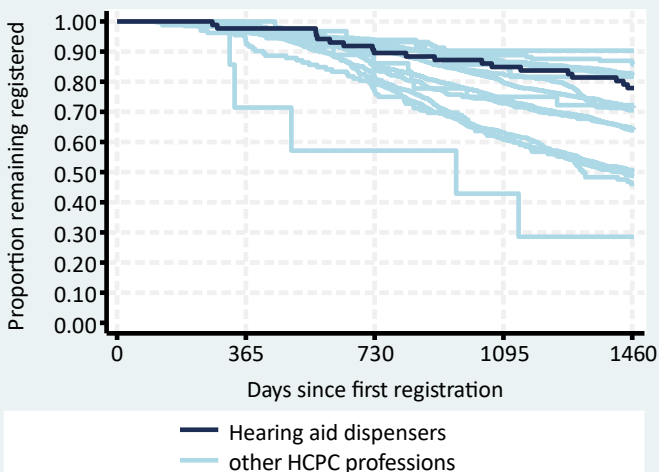
**METHODS**

All new international route Hearing aid dispensers first registering between 01 May 2014 and 30 April 2018 were included (n=86) and their registration status at least four years later determined. The registrant's nationalities were grouped by World Bank income categories as at 2015 into High Income Countries (HIC) or Low & Middle Income Countries (LMIC). The Kaplan-Meier method was used to estimate the percent remaining registered and the corresponding 95% confidence intervals for those estimates.

**RESULTS**

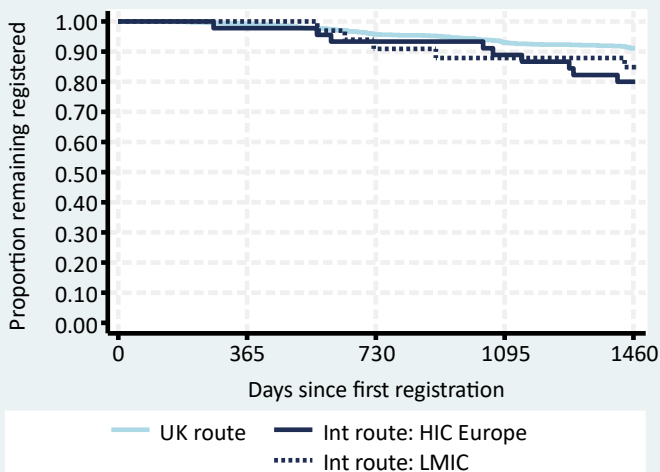
**Overall international route retention**

Hearing aid dispensers remaining on the HCPC register:  
 After two years: 90% (95% CI: 90% to 94%)  
 After four years: 78% (95% CI: 68% to 85%)  
 See Table 1 for further details.



**Comparison of routes and nationalities**

Hearing aid dispensers international route country group retention rates were only slightly lower than their UK route rate.  
 See Table 2 for further details.



**International route demographic groups**

No international route demographic group had a sufficient number of registrants (n>=20) to enable the calculation of retention rates.  
 See Tables 3 & 4 overleaf for further details.

**Table 1: Overall international route retention**

Profession	n	%	95% CI
Operating dept. practitioners	31	90.3	72.9 to 96.8
Clinical scientists	161	86.3	80.0 to 90.8
Practitioner psychologists	574	82.5	79.2 to 85.4
Biomedical scientists	863	82.1	79.4 to 84.5
Arts therapists	49	81.6	67.7 to 90.0
<b>Hearing aid dispensers</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>77.9</b>	<b>67.6 to 85.3</b>
Prosthetists / orthotists	36	72.2	54.5 to 84.0
Radiographers	2,056	71.5	69.5 to 73.4
Paramedics	998	70.5	67.6 to 73.2
Physiotherapists	3,457	64.5	62.9 to 66.1
Dietitians	548	63.9	59.7 to 67.7
Occupational therapists	1,114	50.5	47.5 to 53.4
Speech & language therapists	623	48.7	44.7 to 52.6
Chiropodists / podiatrists	132	46.0	37.3 to 54.3
Orthoptists	7	28.6	4.1 to 61.2

**CONCLUSIONS**

The majority of new International route Hearing aid dispensers remained on the HCPC register four years after their first registration though around 1 in 4 had left by then.

For all HCPC professions combined, lower four-year retention rates were observed in international route registrants who were one or more of younger, female or from HIC, particularly from those outside of Europe.

In these regards, international route Hearing aid dispensers, in comparison to all other HCPC professions combined, were:

- more likely to be aged 30+ (43% vs. 34%)
- more likely to be female (70% vs. 68%)
- more likely to be from LMIC:
  - HIC Europe (52% vs. 45%)
  - HIC other (9% vs. 37%)
  - LMIC (38% vs. 18%)

The difference in these percentages, particularly in terms of age and country income group, may in part explain the relatively high level of international route retention for Hearing aid dispensers.

**Table 2: Comparison of routes and nationalities, Hearing aid dispensers**

Route and country group	n	%	Retention rate	
			%	95% CI
UK route	1,071	93	91.1	89.2 to 92.7
Intl. route: HIC Europe	45	4	80.0	65.1 to 89.1
Intl. route: HIC other	8	1	-	-
Intl. route: LMIC	33	3	84.9	67.4 to 93.4

**Table 3: International route demographic groups, Hearing aid dispensers**

Demographic group	n	%	Retention rate	
			%	95% CI
HIC Europe: Female 20-29	19	22	-	-
HIC Europe: Female 30+	12	14	-	-
HIC Europe: Male 20-29	6	7	-	-
HIC Europe: Male 30+	8	9	-	-
HIC other: Female 20-29	1	1	-	-
HIC other: Female 30+	4	5	-	-
HIC other: Male 20-29	1	1	-	-
HIC other: Male 30+	2	2	-	-
LMIC: Female 20-29	15	17	-	-
LMIC: Female 30+	9	10	-	-
LMIC: Male 20-29	7	8	-	-
LMIC: Male 30+	2	2	-	-

**Table 4: Largest international route nationalities, Hearing aid dispensers**

Country of nationality	n	%	Retention rate	
			%	95% CI
India	20	23	85	60.4 to 94.9
Portugal	19	22	-	-
South Africa	9	10	-	-
United Kingdom	9	10	-	-
Italy	5	6	-	-
Australia	4	5	-	-
Poland	4	5	-	-
Belgium	3	3	-	-
Romania	3	3	-	-
Canada	2	2	-	-
United States	2	2	-	-
France	1	1	-	-
Republic of Ireland	1	1	-	-
Netherlands	1	1	-	-
Norway	1	1	-	-