

General Medical Council (GMC)

Who are they?

The GMC is an independent organisation that helps protect patients and improve medical education and practice across the UK. The GMC does this by setting standards and regulating doctors working in the UK.

What do they do?

Every patient should receive a high standard of care. The GMC role is to help achieve that by working closely with doctors, their employers and patients, to make sure that the trust patients have in their doctors is fully justified. The GMC deliver their role by:



Setting standards for doctors

- Defining what makes a good doctor by setting out professional values, knowledge, skills and behaviours.
- Consulting with patients, doctors, employers and educators to set standards.



Education and training

- Setting educational standards for all UK doctors through undergraduate and postgraduate education and training.
- Ensuring doctors get the appropriate supervision and experience they need during training.



Managing the UK medical register

- Maintaining the medical register of 270,000 doctors in the UK, ensuring all are checked before they join.
- Working with medical schools or employers if they have any concerns about a doctor.



Revalidation

- Working with employers to make sure every doctor has an annual check or appraisal and supporting doctors in the revalidation process.
- Asking for formal confirmation that each doctor is following the standards set out in *Good medical practice*.

Recent work

Medical Licensing Assessment (MLA)

The GMC consulted on plans that will provide a single route to the medical register for all doctors wanting to practise in the UK. The consultation aimed to address the current variation in arrangements for medical students across the country and those wishing to join the register from outside the UK.

The GMC will develop detailed plans with experts and partners. They will then pilot the assessment extensively with a view to implementing the MLA fully in 2022.

Confidentiality guidance

In 2017 the GMC published revised and expanded guidance on confidentiality for all doctors practising in the UK. It helps doctors better understand their responsibilities when handling patient information in their everyday practice.

The principles of the guidance remain unchanged. But it clarifies information around when to make disclosures in the public interest and when doctors can rely on implied consent to share patient information for direct care.