Revalidation of doctors in the UK

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Role of the GMC

To protect, promote and maintain the health and safety of the public by ensuring proper standards in the practice of medicine:

- keeping up-to-date registers of qualified doctors
- fostering good medical practice
- promoting high standards of medical education and training
- dealing firmly and fairly with doctors whose fitness to practise is in doubt

Revalidation provides a further lever to advance our objective
A History of Revalidation

- Report into Bristol Royal Infirmary 1998-2001
- Shipman Inquiry 2000-2005
- Good Doctors Safer Patients 2006
- Trust Assurance and Safety 2007
- Introduction of the licence to practise 2009
- Revalidation the Way Ahead 2010
- Medical Professions (Responsible Officer) Regulations 2010
- Licence to Practise and Revalidation Regulations 2012

General Medical Council
Statutory framework

- Medical Professions (Responsible Officer) Regulations 2010
- Licence to Practise and Revalidation Regulations 2012
Focus on each doctor’s practice: appraisal and supporting information

Annual appraisal based on Good Medical Practice

- Reviewed Complaints & Compliments
- Patient Feedback
- Colleague Feedback
- Significant Events
- Quality Improvement Activity
- CPD

Supporting information for appraisal and revalidation

The Good Medical Practice Framework for appraisal and revalidation
Recommendation types

- Responsible Officer recommendation
- Revalidation
  - Request for more time (defer)
  - Failure to engage

Concerns about Fitness to Practise must be raised when they arise
Revalidation Model

Bringing all doctors into a governed system that evaluates their fitness to practise on a regular basis.

Requiring doctors to collect and reflect on evidence about their whole practice through appraisal.

Focusing doctors on Good medical practice to promote professionalism by increasing awareness and adoption of its values and principles.

Facilitate identifying and addressing potential concerns earlier - and before they become safety issues or fitness to practise referrals.

Supporting ROs to fulfil their statutory function of advising the GMC about the fitness to practise of their doctors.
What GMC has done to support process

**Systems**
- Dedicated IT portal to share information
- Dedicated decisions team
- Field staff to support ROs

**Comprehensive Guidance**
- RO Protocol
- Guidance for Doctors
- Published guidance for decision makers

**Engaging with healthcare system**
- Publishing data
- Engaging with systems regulators
- Engaging with employers and ROs
Revalidation

- **3 December 2012** - every licensed doctor required to revalidate to retain their licence to practise

- **January 2013** - we wrote to every licensed doctor to advise them of their submission date

- Majority of doctors will do this through a connection to designated body and a responsible officer
Revalidation Update

- 20,610 doctors revalidated
- 4,462 doctors have had their date deferred
- 6 doctors non engagement recommendations approved
### UK recommendations*

* as at 11 Oct 2013

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* General Medical Council
Feedback & Challenges

- Positive response from doctors and responsible officers
  - 99% of recommendations made on time
  - 99% of decisions made within 5 days

- Made changes based on feedback

- Restructure of NHS England in April 2013
Doctors without a connection

- 30,000 doctors with no connection details

- Campaign to manage these doctors
  - Non responders - 8,000 doctors
  - Newly registered doctors
  - Doctors who no longer have a connection
Doctors who do not have a connection

- 13,000 doctors have stated they do not have a connection
- Options
  - Relinquish licence/registration
  - Find a suitable person
  - Undertake the alternative route
Suitable Persons

- Doctors can arrange for a suitable person to make a revalidation recommendation for them
- The GMC needs to approve a suitable person
- Suitable persons should have an link to the doctor and be an existing or RO or hold a similar role
- Ten suitable persons have been approved*
Alternative Route

- Currently being developed
- Likely to consist of
  - Annual return
  - End of cycle application
  - Two part generic assessment
- Further details will be made available later this year
Questions