

Review of *Good Medical Practice*: Defining the scope and issues

Background and consultation questions

23 February – 8 April 2011

Please return your responses by Friday 8 April 2011 to:

Good Medical Practice Consultation
Standards and Ethics Team
General Medical Council
Regent's Place
350 Euston Road
London NW1 3JN

Email: gmp2012@gmc-uk.org

Telephone: 020 7189 5404

Other formats

Our consultations are also available, on request, in alternative formats such as large print or audio. If you would like to receive a copy of a consultation in an alternative format please contact us to discuss your specific requirements in more detail.

Freedom of information

The information you provide in your response may be subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, which allows public access to information held by the GMC. This does not necessarily mean that your response will be made available to the public as there are exemptions relating to, for example, information provided in confidence and information to which the Data Protection Act 1998 applies. You may request confidentiality by ticking the box below. We will take this into account if a request for your response is made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Please tick if you want us to treat your response as confidential

Data protection

The information you supply will be stored and processed by the GMC in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998 and will be used to analyse the consultation responses and help us to consult more effectively in the future. Any reports published using this information will not contain any personally identifiable information. We may provide anonymised responses to the consultation to third parties for quality assurance or approved research projects on request.

Consultation summary

The GMC issues guidance to doctors on the standards of conduct and ethics expected of them by patients, the public and the profession. We regularly review our ethical guidance to ensure that it is up to date and fit for purpose.

We are starting a review of our guidance for doctors, *Good Medical Practice* (2006). *Good Medical Practice* expresses the values of the profession and helps doctors to provide good care for patients. It is also used as a foundation for appraisal and revalidation, and for assessing doctors' fitness to practise.

We are seeking your comments on the scope and structure of the guidance and asking for your views on the issues that we should consider when conducting the review.

The consultation will interest doctors and organisations representing doctors, regulators, public bodies, patients and patient groups.

The consultation closes on **8 April 2011**.

Background

Our core guidance to doctors, *Good Medical Practice* (2006) describes what is expected of all doctors registered with the GMC. It is a doctor's responsibility to be familiar with *Good Medical Practice* and to follow the guidance it contains. Doctors must be prepared to explain and justify their decisions and actions. Serious or persistent failure to follow the guidance will put a doctor's registration at risk.

Good Medical Practice is supplemented by a range of more detailed guidance which you can access on our website (www.gmc-uk.org).

We review the guidance regularly to make sure that it is up to date and relevant for all doctors working today and reflects patients' views of good practice. *Good Medical Practice* was last reviewed in 2005/6.

This review is being undertaken at a time of major change in the delivery of healthcare, and the role and functions of the GMC itself.

During the review we will seek views and ideas as we consider each section of the guidance. We are starting the review with this short questionnaire to help set the direction and focus of our work.

Purpose

Before proposing any changes to *Good Medical Practice*, we want to understand the issues of importance to those who use the guidance in their work, and those on whom it has an impact, including doctors and patients. The questions that follow are based on issues raised with us since *Good Medical Practice* was published in 2006.

The consultation is open to everyone. We hope that the many organisations and individuals who use *Good Medical Practice* will use this opportunity to tell us how we could make the guidance more relevant to their work or more useful in format or structure.

Consultation process

The consultation runs until **Friday 8 April 2011**. We will analyse and report on the responses to the consultation in May 2011.

We will launch a formal, public consultation on revised guidance in October 2011. Throughout the project we will also seek views on individual issues and report on the progress of the review, through our website.

The consultation is web-based and we hope that most people will send us their responses using our public consultation site (<https://gmc.e-consultation.net/econsult/>) which can also be accessed via our own website (www.gmc-uk.org). Alternatively, responses can be submitted to the Standards and Ethics Team on paper (see contact details on page 2) or can be emailed to us at gmp2012@gmc-uk.org.

Good Medical Practice Review – Initial Questionnaire

1. Should *Good Medical Practice* continue to be based on high level principles rather than more detailed guidance?

Yes No Not sure

If no, can you say how *Good Medical Practice* should be changed?

Comments

2. Are there any values or principles you think we should add to the current text?

Yes No Not sure

If yes, what are they?

Comments

3. *Good Medical Practice* describes 'professionalism in action' and sets standards and values that apply to all doctors. However, doctors in training cannot be expected to have the same knowledge and experience as doctors in continuing practice.

Should we include advice specifically addressed to doctors in training grades in *Good Medical Practice*?

Yes No Not sure

If yes, how can this be achieved?

4. Are there any sections or paragraphs in *Good Medical Practice* that could be shortened or removed?

Yes No Not sure

If yes, please say which.

Comments

5. *Good Medical Practice* focuses on the doctor/patient partnership. Some people think that this approach excludes doctors who do not routinely see patients. Do you agree?

Yes No Not sure

If yes, can you suggest how this should be addressed?

Comments

6. *Good Medical Practice* is intended to help doctors provide good care for patients. Does the guidance give sufficient weight to patients' needs and rights?

Yes No Not sure

If no, what could we add, or how could we change the guidance?

Comments

7. The framework for appraisal and assessment based on *Good Medical Practice* uses four domains:

- Knowledge, Skills and Performance
- Safety and Quality
- Communication, Partnership and Teamwork
- Maintaining Trust.

We could reorganise the current guidance using these domains, rather than the seven headings. This would not mean omitting guidance on matters currently included under headings such as 'health' or 'probity'.

Should we use these domains to replace the existing seven headings in *Good Medical Practice*?

Yes No Not sure

Comments

8. What are the two most important issues the GMC should bear in mind when reviewing *Good Medical Practice*?

Thank you for taking the time to provide comments.

We would be grateful if you could provide us with the following information about yourself as this will help us analyse the consultation responses.

Your details

Name _____

Job Title _____

Organisation _____

Address _____

Email _____

Contact Tel _____

Would you like to be contacted about General Medical Council (GMC) consultations in the future?

Yes No

If you would like to know about upcoming GMC consultations, please let us know which areas of the GMC's work you are interested in:

- Education
- Standards and Ethics
- Fitness to Practise
- Registration
- Resources (including the annual retention fee)
- Licensing and revalidation

Data protection

The information you supply will be stored and processed by the GMC in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998 and will be used to analyse the consultation responses and help us to consult more effectively in the future. Any reports published using this information will not contain any personally identifiable information. We may provide anonymised responses to the consultation to third parties for quality assurance or approved research projects on request.

Responding as an individual

Are you are responding as an individual?

Yes No

If yes, please complete the following questions. **If not, please complete the 'responding on behalf of an organisation' section.**

Which of the following categories best describes you?

- Doctor
 - Medical educator (teaching, delivering or administrating)
 - Medical student
 - Member of the public
 - Other healthcare professional
 - Other (please give details)
-
-
-

What is your country of residence?

- England
 - Northern Ireland
 - Scotland
 - Wales
 - Other – European and Economic Area
 - Other - rest of the world
-

Information about you

To help ensure that our consultations are reflecting the view of the diverse community, please fill in the information below. Although we will use this information in our analysis of the consultation response, it will not be linked to your response.

What is your age?

- Under 24
- 25 – 34
- 35 – 44
- 45 – 54
- 55 – 64
- 65+

Are you:

- Female
- Male

Would you describe yourself as having a disability?

- Yes
- No

What is your ethnic origin? (Please tick one)

Asian or Asian British

- Bangladeshi
 - Indian
 - Pakistani
 - Any other Asian background,
please specify
-

Black or Black British

- African
 - Caribbean
 - Any other Black background,
please specify
-

Chinese or other ethnic group

Chinese

Any other background, please specify

Mixed

White and Asian

White and Black African

White and Black Caribbean

Any other Mixed background, please specify

White

British

Irish

Any other White background, please specify

Responding as an organisation

Are you are responding on behalf of an organisation?

Yes

No

If yes, please complete the following questions. If not, please complete the 'responding as an individual' section above.

Which of the following categories best describes your organisation?

- Body representing doctors
- Body representing patients or public
- Government department
- Independent healthcare provider
- Medical School (undergraduate)
- Postgraduate medical institution
- NHS/HSC organisation
- Regulatory body
- Other (please give details)

In which country is your organisation based?

- UK wide
- England
- Scotland
- Northern Ireland
- Wales
- Other (European and Economic Area)
- Other (rest of the world)

In our consultation reports we often include quotes from respondents. Are you content for the comments you submit to be attributed to your organisation in our consultation reports?

- Yes No