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## 6a- Regulating Medical Education and Training: Policy Review - Annex A

### Terms of Reference

#### Background and Context

In September 2007, in the final report of his independent inquiry into Modernising Medical Careers, Sir John Tooke made the following recommendation:

‘PMETB should be assimilated in a regulatory structure within GMC that oversees the continuum of undergraduate and postgraduate medical education and training, continuing professional development, quality assurance and enhancement. The greater resources of the GMC would ensure that the improvements that are needed in postgraduate medical education will be achieved more swiftly and efficiently. To this end the assimilation should occur as swiftly as possible.’

The Secretary of State accepted this recommendation. Work is now underway to merge PMETB with GMC by April 2010.

Although the merger will bring regulatory responsibility for the whole of medical education and training under one roof, this consolidation of functions will not, in itself, achieve the full benefits of a single continuum of medical education and training.

To ensure that these benefits are realised the GMC, with support from PMETB, has invited Lord Patel to lead a review of the current arrangements for the regulation of medical education and training and make recommendations covering the changes that are needed to achieve the full benefits of the merger.

#### Purpose of the review

The starting point of the review is the GMC’s responsibility for the fitness for purpose of the registers and the fitness to practise of those entering the registers and continuing to be registered and licensed to practise.

The purpose of the review is to examine the current arrangements for the regulation of undergraduate and postgraduate medical education and training, and determine what changes are required to ensure that the regulatory framework meets the needs of patients, employers and the profession by supporting doctors in the provision of high quality care throughout all stages of their career.

The review should identify those aspects of the regulation of education and training that are currently working well, those that require strengthening or modification, and those areas where there are significant gaps in the current arrangements.

## **Key tasks**

To consider and make recommendations in relation to the following areas:

*Theme 1: Delivering assurance for patients and the public, employers and the profession regarding the outcomes of training*

The review should have particular regard to what the GMC must do to ensure that doctors are equipped for practice at each stage of their career.

*Theme 2: Co-ordinating all stages of medical education and training*

The review should identify the gaps in the current continuum for the regulation of education and training, with particular regard to entry to medical school, the position of doctors outside the formal training grades, and the credentialing of knowledge and skills.

The review should also consider the contribution of education and training to improving standards through revalidation.

*Theme 3: The development of standards and quality assurance*

The review should examine the approach the GMC should take to the development of standards for education and training, and quality assuring the outputs of education and training.

In addition to the specific themes outlined above, the review should consider such other related issues as appear germane to its overarching purpose of enhancing the regulation of medical education and training.

## **Outputs**

A written report by January 2010 setting out recommendations in each of the key areas identified above.

## **Review membership**

The review will be led by Lord Patel supported by an advisory group comprising the members of the GMC's Education and Training Reference Group and two persons nominated by the Board of PMETB.

This advisory group will be assisted in its work by a wider reference group comprising members of the GMC Council, the PMET Board and other interested parties drawn from undergraduate and postgraduate medical education and training, the NHS and independent sector, patients and the public.

## **Accountability**

The review will help to inform the GMC's approach to the regulation of education and training following the merger of PMETB with the GMC. The review will therefore be accountable to the Council of the GMC.