
7a – Supporting Strategies to the Corporate Strategy 2010-2013 - Annex B

European and International Strategy 2010-2013

Introduction

1. The purpose of the GMC is to protect, promote and maintain the health and safety of the public by ensuring proper standards in the practice of medicine. The GMC has a Corporate Strategy for the period 2010-2013 that sets out the Council's strategic aims and describes what it aims to deliver. This European and International Strategy is one of four supporting strategies which will support the delivery of the Corporate Strategy 2010-2013.
2. Our European and international aims and objectives are linked to the following themes from the Corporate Strategy:
 - a. Protecting the public. Providing assurance to the wider public – giving people more confidence that doctors are fit to practise; providing them with greater access to information about their doctor, and an understanding of the role of the regulator.
 - b. Working with partners. Engaging and influencing key interest groups and delivery partners – working in partnership with key interest groups across the UK, particularly the NHS and other healthcare providers, to ensure our regulatory model and its development reflects contemporary developments in healthcare; developing appropriate, more effective relationships that will enhance patient safety by facilitating dialogue among disparate partners.

Aims

3. The Strategy is designed to help us operate more proactively on the European and international stage to enhance our regulatory effectiveness. It recognises that UK medical regulation does not exist in isolation from European and international developments. It also acknowledges our long-standing engagement with medical regulators in Europe, and across the world, and our contribution to assisting in the development of medical regulation in other countries - including where it is absent or less developed.

4. By engaging at European level and internationally, our aims are:
 - a. To engage and influence effectively in Europe and beyond, in the interests of exploiting opportunities to develop and enhance the rights of patients to effective medical regulation.
 - b. To advocate principles of effective and proportionate regulation.
 - c. To highlight the importance of assuring the fitness to practise of practitioners as they move between countries in the interests of patient safety.
 - d. To advocate methods for timely and consistent information sharing on doctors and healthcare professionals between competent authorities.
 - e. To share the GMC's experience and approaches to professional standards and ethics and the regulation of medical education and training throughout all stages of a doctor's career, and learn from the experiences of others.

Key themes

5. To deliver the aims highlighted in paragraph 4 our European and international activities will focus on the following key themes:
 - a. To influence the legislative and policy debate on patient safety and regulation in Europe and internationally with particular reference to the recognition of professional qualifications, language testing, fitness to practise information sharing, telemedicine and eHealth, as well as any developing proposals for European-wide standards.
 - b. To continue to build, develop, and play a leading role in our networks including Healthcare Professional Crossing Borders (HPCB), the Alliance of UK Health Regulators on Europe (AURE), and the International Association of Medical Regulatory Authorities (IAMRA).
 - c. To share best practice and learn from others to gain a better understanding of the regulation of medical education and training in other European and international jurisdictions.
 - d. To raise the GMC's profile and promote our work in Europe and internationally by attending key conferences and policy discussions, proactively engaging with EU officials and politicians and hosting meetings and events.