

To note

Proposed Amendment to the Arrangements for Collecting Fees for Certification

Issue

1. Streamlining the fee collection arrangements for certification through the Combined Programme.

Recommendation

2. To note the revised arrangements for collecting fees for certification through the Combined Programme (paragraphs 10-13).

Further information

3. If you require further information about this paper, please contact us by email: gmc@gmc-uk.org or tel. 0161 9236602.

Background

4. Strategic Aim Seven in the 2010 Business Plan is to continue to use our resources efficiently and effectively. The GMC Registration Fees Regulations 2010 set out the fees charged to doctors for initial registration and the annual retention fee payable by doctors for maintaining their name on the register.

5. The Section 60 Order which assimilated PMETB's functions into the GMC contained transitional arrangements to allow some of the rules, regulations and decisions made by PMETB to continue to apply until such time as we are ready to revisit them. As a result, The Postgraduate Medical Education and Training Board (Fees) Rules Order 2009 continues to apply.

6. Certification through the Combined Programme was introduced by PMETB in February 2009 as a further way in which applicants may demonstrate eligibility for entry onto the Specialist Register or the GP Register. It is relevant to doctors who have completed an approved specialty training programme but have undertaken some parts of their training in unapproved posts.

7. The application process for a Certificate of Eligibility for Specialist Registration (CESR) or GP Registration (CEGPR) requires the applicant to provide a full validated portfolio of evidence of specialist training, qualifications and experience.

8. Applying for a CESR or CEGPR through the Combined Programme requires a reduced content portfolio supported by the satisfactory completion of a GMC approved training programme.

9. On 8 July 2009, Council agreed to fix the 2010/11 fees for CCT, CESR and CEGPR at 2009/10 levels. The fee for a CCT is £805, and the fee for a CESR or CEGPR is £1,905. Applicants under the Combined Programme are required to pay an initial sum of £1,905 at the outset and they are refunded £1,100 if their CESR/CEGPR application is successfully processed as a Combined Programme application.

Discussion

10. Around 6,000 doctors each year seek certification from PMETB. Currently around 80 applications are made through the Combined Programme route. Our experience to date shows that the majority of Combined Programme applications are successful.

11. To streamline the application process and reduce the initial financial burden on doctors applying for statements of eligibility through the Combined Programme, we propose to change the arrangements for collecting fees and delivering refunds for successful applicants. The revised arrangements will be effective immediately.

12. We propose to charge a split fee: £805 would become due on making the application. For applications that are successful on the basis of the reduced content portfolio, the balance of the fee would be waived.

13. For applications that do not satisfy the requirements of the Combined Programme, we would invoice applicants for the outstanding balance of £1,100 needed to proceed to process their application.

Recommendation: To note the revised arrangements for collecting fees for certification through the Combined Programme.

Resource implications

14. The overall impact on fee levels is neutral. However, both the applicant and the GMC will benefit from the streamlined administrative arrangements.

Equality

15. The revised arrangements will help doctors on lower incomes.