

Area of practice

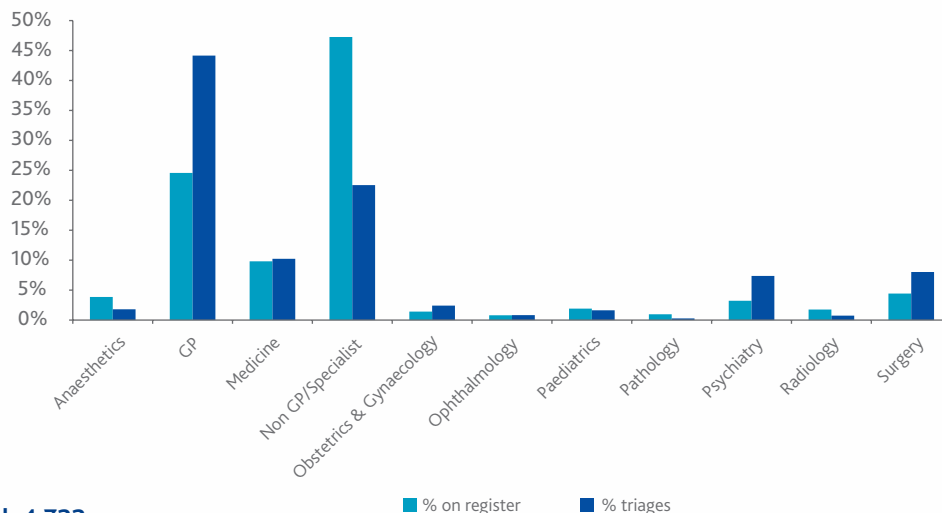
This document contains analysis of outcomes at key decision points in the GMC's Fitness to Practise procedures grouped by doctors' area of practice. These groups are based on doctors' names appearing on the GP and Specialist Registers and broadly correlate with the ten Royal Colleges that doctors can be members of.

It should be noted that this analysis is based on doctors' entry into the Specialist Register based on recognition of Postgraduate Medical Education and Training Board (PMETB) qualification or European Union/European Economic Area equivalent or recognition of experience prior to 1997 within a specialist field. Therefore, record of registration on a specialist register does not definitively mean that the doctor is currently practising in that field. The category of Non GP/Specialist includes any doctor whose name does not appear on either the GP or Specialist Registers such as doctors in training grades.

Any comparison against the percentage of doctors on the Medical Register should be interpreted with caution as not all doctors on the Register are in practise and so the proportion represents doctors registered with the GMC and not a proportion of doctors in active practise in either the NHS or in private healthcare.

Enquiries

Chart 1.1 Percentage number of enquiries received by area of practice in 2009 against percentage currently registered

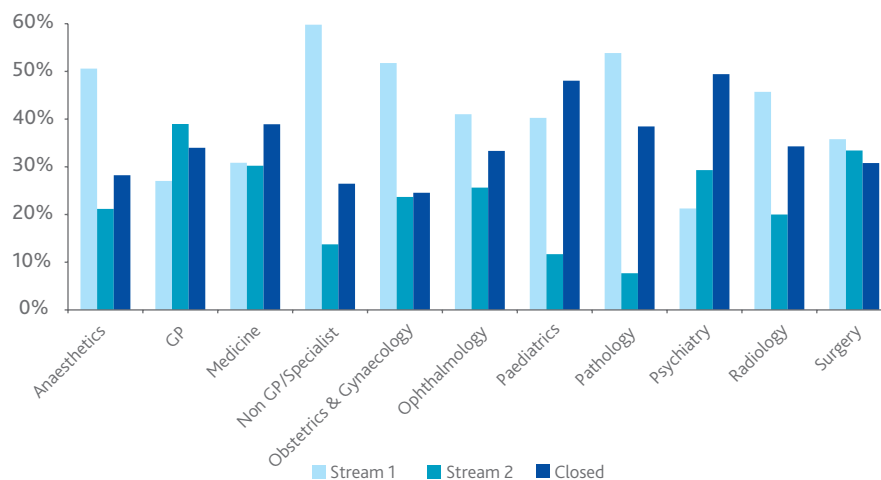


Total: 4,722

■ % on register ■ % triages

- The largest proportion of enquiries received in 2009 related to doctors that are on the GP Register (nearly 45%).

Chart 1.2 2009 Comparative 2009 triage outcomes by area of practice



Total: 4,722

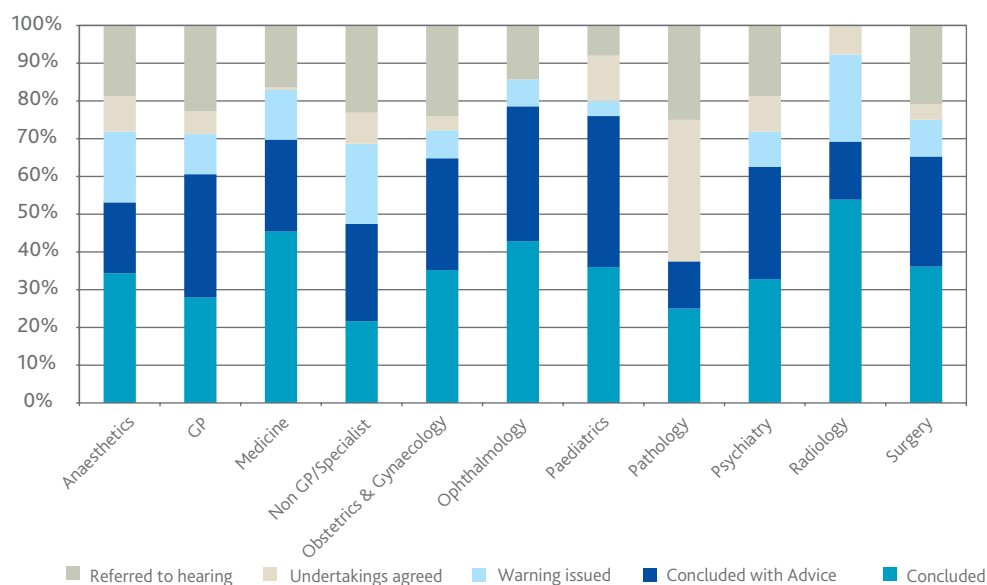
- The groups of doctors that had the largest proportion of enquiries closed with no further action in 2009 were Psychiatry (49%), Paediatrics (48%) and Medicine (39%).
- The groups of doctors that had the largest proportion of triage outcomes to investigate as Stream 2¹ in 2009 were GPs (39%), Surgery (33%) and Medicine (30%).
- The groups of doctors that had the largest proportion of triage outcomes to investigate as Stream 1² in 2009 were non GP/Specialist (60%), Pathology (54%) and Obstetrics & Gynaecology (52%).

¹ If the information received is in itself less serious but would be of concern if part of a wider pattern, we would make enquiries with the doctor's employers or contractors to establish if they have any wider concerns about their practice. Once this information has been obtained, we carry out a second assessment to decide whether further investigation is required or not. This process is described as 'Stream 2'.

² If the information raises serious allegations which in themselves would call into question the doctor's fitness to practise, we will carry out a full investigation. This type of investigation is described as 'Stream 1'.

Case Examiner decision outcomes

Chart 1.3 Proportions of 2009 Case Examiner outcomes by area of practice

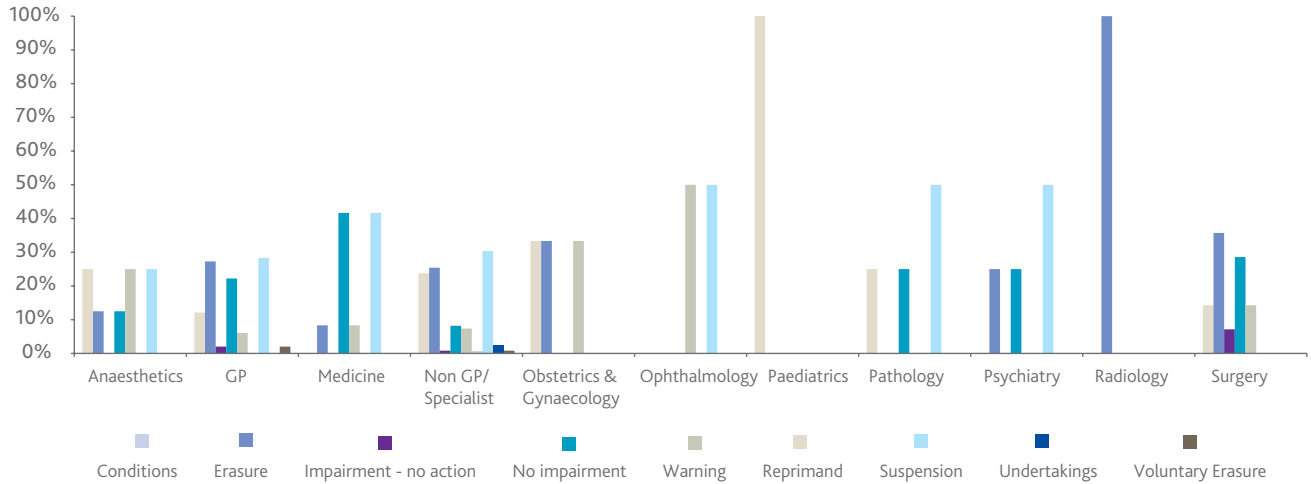


Total: 1,496

- The groups of doctors that had the largest proportion of decisions to conclude a case with no further action in 2009 were Radiology (54%), Medicine (45%) and Ophthalmology (43%).
- The groups of doctors that had the largest proportion of decisions to conclude a case with advice in 2009 were Paediatrics (40%), Ophthalmology (36%) and GPs (33%).
- The groups of doctors that had the largest proportion of decisions to conclude a case with a warning in 2009 were Radiology (23%), non GP/Specialist (21%) and Anaesthetics (19%).
- The groups of doctors that had the largest proportion of decisions to agree undertakings in 2009 were Pathology (38%), Paediatrics (12%) and Anaesthetics/Psychiatry (both 9%).
- The groups of doctors that had the largest proportion of decisions to refer to a Fitness to Practise panel hearing in 2009 were Pathology (25%), Obstetrics & Gynaecology (24%) and GPs/non GP/Specialist (both 23%).

Fitness to Practise Panel outcomes

Chart 1.4 Proportions of 2009 Fitness to Practise Panel outcomes by area of practice



Total: 270

- Of all the Fitness to Practise Panel hearings held in 2009 the largest proportion appearing before a panel were non GP/Specialist (45%) and GPs (37%).
- The total number of doctors erased at a Fitness to Practise panel hearing in 2009 was 68; this consists of 31 non GP/Specialist doctors, 27 GPs, five surgeons and the remaining five comprising one each from the Anaesthetics, Medicine, Obstetrics & Gynaecology, Psychiatry and Radiology groups.

Annex – Data used in charts and text

Data collection

The data used in these statistics was taken from the Siebel case management system at 19:30 on 7 February 2010 and was correct at this time. The dynamic nature of FTP casework means that there may have been some minor updates to this figures since data extraction.

This fact sheet does not include a complete data set of all enquiries received by the GMC in 2009 as around 20% of those received are in respect of doctors who are not identified. This means that data relating to area of practice would not be available. Enquiries where a doctor has not been identified are because the information is not sufficiently serious to call into question their fitness to practise and are therefore not appropriate for GMC investigation.

Table 1.1 Number of triages, triage outcomes and registered doctors by area of practice

Specialty	of doctors registered	trriages	Closed	Stream 1	Stream 2
Anaesthetics	8,978	85	24	43	18
GP	57,154	2,085	709	564	813
Medicine	22,819	483	188	149	146
Non GP/Specialist	109,948	1,062	281	635	146
Obstetrics & Gynaecology	3,293	114	28	59	27
Ophthalmology	1,860	39	13	16	10
Paediatrics	4,449	77	37	31	9
Pathology	2,251	13	5	7	1
Psychiatry	7,502	348	172	74	102
Radiology	4,092	35	12	16	7
Surgery	10,299	380	117	136	127
Total	232,645	4,722	1,586	1,730	1,730

Table 1.2 Number of Case Examiner decision outcomes by area of practice

	Conclude	Conclude with advice	Warning issued	Undertakings agreed	Refer to hearing	Total
Anaesthetics	11	6	6	3	6	32
GP	141	165	54	30	115	505
Medicine	69	37	20	1	25	152
Non GP/Specialist	105	125	103	40	112	485
Obstetrics & Gynaecology	19	16	4	2	13	54
Ophthalmology	6	5	1	0	2	14
Paediatrics	9	10	1	3	2	25
Pathology	2	1	0	3	2	8
Psychiatry	21	19	6	6	12	64
Radiology	7	2	3	1	0	13
Surgery	52	42	14	6	30	144
Total	442	428	212	319	95	1,496

Table 1.3 Number of Fitness to Practise Panel outcomes by area of practice

	Conditions	Impairment-		No		Warning	Reprimand	Suspension	Undertakings	Voluntary		Total
		Erasure	no action	Impairment	Erasure					Erasure		
Anaesthetics	2	1	0	1	2	0	2	0	0	0	8	
GP	12	27	2	22	6	0	28	0	0	2	99	
Medicine	0	1	0	5	1	0	5	0	0	0	12	
Non GP/Specialist	29	31	1	10	9	1	37	3	1	1	122	
Obstetrics & Gynaecology	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	
Ophthalmology	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	
Paediatrics	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
Pathology	1	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	4	
Psychiatry	0	1	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	4	
Radiology	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
Surgery	2	5	1	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	14	
Total	48	68	4	44	22	1	77	3	3	3	270	