

Proposed time limits for the publication of fitness to practise information

GMC Council has agreed to the introduction of time limits for the publication of fitness to practise information on a doctor's online record. Currently, this information is published indefinitely. The following time limits have been approved in principle by GMC Council, but will not come into force until early 2017.

Please note, these time limits apply to substantive fitness to practise decisions only.

Our current publication and disclosure policy provides that interim orders are published on a doctor's record while they are active, and for the duration of the publication period of any substantive fitness to practise action taken. Interim orders are removed from publication where a case is closed with no finding of impairment or warning issued. This will not change under the revised proposals.

Registered doctors – action taken for reasons other than solely on the grounds of adverse physical or mental health

Sanction	Time limit
Doctor erased by medical practitioners tribunal and subsequently restored to register	As long as the doctor is registered with the GMC plus 5 years if they leave
Doctor received a suspension of more than 3 months	15 years from the date the suspension expires
Doctor received a suspension of 3 months or less, or conditions or undertakings	10 years from the date the sanction expires or is revoked
Doctor received a finding of impaired fitness to practise but no sanction	5 years from the date of the end of the MPTS hearing

Registered doctors – action taken solely on the grounds of adverse physical or mental health

Doctor received suspension, conditions or undertakings because of impaired fitness to practise solely on the grounds of health	Remove from publication as soon as sanction expires/is revoked
Doctor received impairment finding but no sanction solely on grounds of health	No publication on the online register

Doctors not currently registered

Sanction	Time limit
Doctor was erased by medical practitioners tribunal	10 years from the date of erasure

Doctor received a sanction other than erasure	5 years from the date the doctor left the register (subject to relevant 10 and 15 year maximum periods)
Doctor received a finding of impaired fitness to practise but no sanction	1 year from the date the doctor left the register (subject to 5 year maximum period)
Doctor received suspension, conditions or undertakings solely on the grounds of health	1 year from the date the doctor left the register (subject to the sanction still being active)