

Memorandum

General Medical Council

Regulating doctors
Ensuring good medical practice

To: Deans of Medical Schools,
QABME Visitors
From: Chairman of the Education
Committee
Date: 17 October 2006

Title: Student Selected Components in Graduate Entry Programmes

The Education Committee has carefully considered its expectations regarding Student Selected Components (SSCs) in Graduate Entry Programmes (GEPs), in light of information supplied by the medical schools concerned. The Committee was also mindful that our guidance on SSCs in general will be reviewed next year as we prepare to consult on a draft of the next edition of Tomorrow's Doctors.

As you will be aware, our expectations on SSCs are set out in paragraphs 38-41 of Tomorrow's Doctors. This is our current guidance and it stands in both the letter and the spirit until the next edition is published in 2008.

Tomorrow's Doctors states: 'We expect that in a standard five-year curriculum between 25% and 33% would normally be available for SSCs'. We have not specified any percentage range for four-year GEP curricula. The Education Committee considered the options and I can confirm that we still do not think it would be appropriate to set a percentage range for GEPs. We are therefore not expecting GEPs to have 25% to 33% set aside for SSCs, nor are we setting any other quantitative expectations.

We do of course continue to be very interested in the SSCs provided at GEPs and the arrangements will be carefully scrutinised in QABME visits to ensure that they add educational value to the curricula. The Visitors will be keen to ensure that SSC options are consistently of a high quality; that they are genuinely selected by students; and that they are appropriate to the intake. The requirements in Tomorrow's Doctors must of course be met and the Visitors will be interested in how well the SSC arrangements meet the objectives set out in paragraph 40 bearing in mind the experience and achievements of the students on the GEP.

I hope this clarifies our position in the period leading up to the new edition of Tomorrow's Doctors in 2008. If you have any questions in the meantime do not

hesitate to make contact. Enquiries can be directed to [Cara Talbot](#) or [Ben Griffith](#) in the GMC Education Section in the first instance.

Professor Peter Rubin
Chair - GMC Education Committee

17 October 2006