

Your fitness to practise

Consideration of your fitness to practise will be based on whether you are suitable to be a medical student or to become a doctor after you graduate. It will take into account any behaviour or health problems you have that might be a risk to patients, or that might affect the trust the public has in the medical profession.

Your fitness to practise may be questioned if your behaviour seriously or persistently falls short of the standards set out in *Medical students: professional behaviour and fitness to practise*.

Your medical school is responsible for overseeing your fitness to practise, supporting you if problems arise, and taking action to protect patients if that is necessary. *Medical students: professional behaviour and fitness to practise* provides guidance for the staff in your medical school to help them deal with fitness to practise concerns fairly and in a way that is consistent with other medical schools.

Before you can practise as a doctor you must be provisionally registered with the GMC.

To gain your provisional registration you must complete a form about your fitness to practise. The GMC aims to ensure that only graduates who are fit to practise are provisionally registered. Because of this, the GMC has the right, which it expects to use only rarely, to deny graduates provisional registration if they are not fit to practise.

Useful contacts and further reading

If you have any questions about how this guidance applies to you, you may want to contact a member of staff at your medical school.

Alternatively, feel free to contact the GMC or the MSC.

General Medical Council

Tel: 0161 923 6602

www.gmc-uk.org

Medical Schools Council

Tel: 020 7419 5494

www.medschools.ac.uk

To read the guidance in full, or to find out more about provisional registration and declaring your fitness to practise, go to:

www.gmc-uk.org/students



General
Medical
Council

Regulating doctors
Ensuring good medical practice



Medical students: professional behaviour and fitness to practise

Guidance from the General Medical Council
and the Medical Schools Council

Your professional behaviour

As a medical student, you have privileges and responsibilities different to those of other students. For example, patients will often trust you with their personal information. This means that standards of behaviour expected of you are different to those of other students.

New guidance from the General Medical Council (GMC) and the Medical Schools Council (MSC), *Medical students: professional behaviour and fitness to practise*, sets out the behaviour expected of you as a medical student.

You can read the new guidance on the GMC website:

www.gmc-uk.org/students

What is the General Medical Council?

The GMC regulates doctors by:

- promoting high standards of medical education
- keeping up-to-date registers of qualified doctors
- fostering good medical practice
- dealing firmly and fairly with doctors whose fitness to practise is in doubt.

What is the Medical Schools Council?

The MSC represents the interests and ambitions of UK medical schools.

What the new guidance says about professional behaviour

The new guidance sets out under seven headings the standards of behaviour expected of you. Here are some examples of the things you should do.

Good clinical care

- respect the decisions and rights of patients
- make sure you are supervised appropriately for any clinical task you perform.

Maintaining good medical practice

- complete and submit your coursework on time
- make sure you can be contacted and always respond to messages.

Teaching and training, appraising and assessing

- be willing to contribute to the education of other students
- give constructive feedback on the quality of your teaching experience.

Relationships with patients

- respect patients and treat them with dignity
- make sure that patients are aware you are a medical student and that they have consented to you being involved in their care.

Working with colleagues

- develop and demonstrate teamwork and leadership skills
- be aware of the roles and responsibilities of other people involved in delivering healthcare.

Probity

- be honest, genuine and original in your academic work
- be aware that your behaviour at all times may affect the trust the public has in the medical profession.

Health

- seek medical or occupational health advice if you are concerned about your health
- be aware that if you are ill you may put patients and colleagues at risk.

www.gmc-uk.org/students