

Agenda item:	4
Report title:	Amending the Certificate of Current Professional Status template
Report by:	Jane Durkin , Assistant Director Registration jane.durkin@gmc-uk.org , 0161 923 6685
Action:	To consider

Executive summary

We issue a standard Certificate of Current Professional Status (CCPS) to demonstrate to overseas medical regulators that a doctor is, or has been, registered in the UK and is in good standing. We issue a non-standard CCPS to reflect any fitness to practise restrictions on a doctor's registration in the public domain. For European doctors, this meets the requirement imposed on us as a Competent Authority under the Directive 2005/36/EC on the Recognition of Professional Qualifications to issue evidence of good character or confirmation of suspensions or prohibitions from practising.

However, we do not issue a CCPS for any doctor subject to an ongoing ftp investigation until the conclusion of the investigation. This leads to delays, poor customer service and could impact on the freedom of movement of European doctors.

To minimise these delays (and therefore improve customer service and operational effectiveness) we are proposing to bring our standard CCPS document in line with the template set out in the Edinburgh Agreement: this is an agreement between Competent Authorities about the exchange of information on healthcare professionals.

Recommendation

The Strategy and Policy Board is asked to agree to adopt the revised Certificate of Current Professional Status template, at Annex C.

Background

- 1 We currently issue two types of Certificate of Current Professional Status (CCPS):
 - a A standard CCPS, at Annex A, which confirms basic information about a doctor's registration status. It includes the statement that 'no proceedings under the Medical Act 1983 are at present in progress or contemplated in relation to the conduct or fitness to practise of the below named practitioner'.
 - b A non-standard CCPS which includes the same basic information as the standard CCPS but also includes relevant fitness to practise (FtP) restrictions (except any relating to a doctor's health) in line with our FtP disclosure policy^{*}.
- 2 For European doctors, this meets the requirement imposed on us as a Competent Authority under the Directive 2005/36/EC[†] to issue evidence of good character or confirmation of suspensions or prohibitions from practising within two months of a request from another Competent Authority or the doctor.
- 3 However, we do not issue a CCPS for any doctor subject to an ongoing FtP investigation until the conclusion of the investigation. This is problematic and leads to poor customer service:
 - a It can lead to significant delay while the investigation is ongoing. This means we do not comply with the Directive's two month deadline to issue evidence of good character or confirmation of suspensions or prohibitions on practising for European doctors.
 - b It can delay a doctor's registration in another country and therefore impact on the freedom of movement of European doctors.
 - c We cannot adequately explain why we won't issue a CCPS if the doctor is unaware that they are being investigated and the investigation body (the Police for example) has asked us not to inform the doctor.
- 4 Since 1 January 2013 we have received 57 complaints from doctors about CCPS documents. Of these, 10 were from doctors with an EEA primary medical qualification (PMQ) and 13 were about delay or refusal to issue a CCPS due to ongoing investigations.

^{*} Section 35B of the Medical Act 1983, as amended, stipulates the fitness to practise information the GMC must publish.

[†] On the Recognition of Professional Qualifications.

- 5 We are therefore proposing to amend the standard CCPS template to improve customer service and operational effectiveness.

The Edinburgh agreement

- 6 In October 2005, the European Consensus Conference agreed and documented best practice in transferring information about doctors between Competent Authorities. This is known as the Edinburgh Agreement. It includes a template, at Annex B, which Competent Authorities should use to share information about doctors, including information about FtP. The statement on our current standard CCPS at paragraph 1a above, goes beyond the requirements of the Edinburgh Agreement.

Improving customer service and operational effectiveness

- 7 We propose amending our standard CCPS to bring it in line with the Edinburgh Agreement template. The revised standard CCPS template, at Annex C:
 - a Will not include the statement at paragraph 1a above and;
 - b Will include the statement 'current restriction to practise: none'.
- 8 If a doctor has current restrictions on their practice, we will amend the text to state 'current restriction to practise: yes', and include details of any restrictions on a doctor's registration in the public domain.
- 9 This will enable us to issue a CCPS where an investigation is ongoing, thereby improving customer service and operational effectiveness.

Next steps

- 10 Subject to the Board's agreement, we will implement the proposed changes to the CCPS template as part of Siebel release 7.10 due to take place in December 2016.
- 11 We will notify other medical regulators of the changes through existing European and international networks. We will also update the relevant pages on our website.

Equality issues

- 12 The proposed changes will reduce delays in issuing CCPSs and will not adversely impact on particular groups of doctors. We have not therefore undertaken an equality analysis.

4 – Amending the Certificate of Current Professional Status template

4 – Annex A

Current standard CCPS template

<Generation Date>

<Addressee Correspondence Name>

<Addressee Organisation>

<Addressee Department>

<Addressee Address Line 1>

<Addressee Address Line 2>

<Addressee City>

<Addressee County>

Certificate of Current Professional Status (Good Standing)

I certify that no proceedings under the Medical Act 1983 are at present in progress or contemplated in relation to the conduct or fitness to practise of the below named practitioner.

Practitioner's name: <Register Name>

GMC reference number: <GMC Reference Number>

Gender: <Gender>

Date of birth: <Date of birth>

Nationality currently held on the GMC Register: <Nationality>

Primary medical qualification: <PMQ>

Current status: <Registration and Licence Status>

Date of limited registration: <Award date>

Date of provisional registration: <Award date>

Date of full registration: <Award date>

Date of current entry from: <Award date>

Specialist Register entry:

Specialty	Sub-specialty	Date of entry
<Specialty>	<Sub specialty>	<Date of entry into Register>
<Specialty>	<Sub specialty>	<Date of entry into Register>

GP Register entry date: <Date of entry into GP Register>

Practitioner's address: <Organisation>, <Department>, <Address Line 1>, <Address Line 2>, <Address Line 3>, <Address Line 4>, <City>, <County>, <Postcode>, <Country>

Certificate of Current Professional Status (Good Standing)

Name: <Register Name>

GMC reference number: <GMC Reference Number>

This certificate

All doctors who want to practise medicine in the UK must hold both registration **and** a licence to practise.

If the doctor's current status includes a reference to APS, this means their practice in the UK is subject to the requirements of our approved practice settings (APS) scheme. You can find more information about APS at www.gmc-uk.org/aps/.

This certificate does not guarantee that this doctor's status on the register has not changed. You can check this doctor's status on the register, and find up to date details of their eligibility to practise medicine in the UK, at www.gmc-uk.org/lrmp or by calling us.



Jane Durkin
Assistant Registrar

4 – Amending the Certificate of Current Professional Status

template

4 – Annex B

Edinburgh agreement template

Name

(as on passport, ID card or register)

Nationality

(the applicant's nationality, including any dual nationality status, and details of any changes or additions to nationality)

Professional ID Number/Unique Identifier

(the applicant's official and unique identifier as issued to them by the competent authority)

Gender

Date of Birth

(day, month and year of birth)

Date and Description of Primary Qualification(s) of Healthcare Professionals

(the date of qualification and name of the relevant qualification(s) held, and the name of the awarding body, the relevant Directive and title as in the Directive, as applicable)

Qualification of Specialisation

(the date of qualification and the name of relevant qualification(s) held, the relevant Directive and title as in the Directive, as applicable)

Registered Address

(the place of current practice of the applicant or the applicant's registered address(es))

Registration Status

Current restriction to practise: Yes/No

(details of the nature of the registration held, e.g. full, temporary, restricted, suspended. Where subject to conditions, all restrictions should include their duration and reason where available)

4 – Amending the Certificate of Current Professional Status template

4 – Annex C

Proposed new standard CCPS template

<Generation Date>

<Addressee Correspondence Name>

<Addressee Organisation>

<Addressee Department>

<Addressee Address Line 1>

<Addressee Address Line 2>

<Addressee City>

<Addressee County>

<Addressee Postcode>

<Addressee Country>

Certificate of Current Professional Status (Good Standing)

Practitioner's name: <Register Name>

GMC reference number: <GMC Reference Number>

Gender: <Gender>

Date of birth: <Date of birth>

Nationality currently held on the GMC Register: <Nationality>

Primary medical qualification: <PMQ>

Current status: <Registration and Licence Status>

Current restriction to practise: None

Restriction reasons: Not applicable

Duration of restriction: Not applicable

Date of limited registration: <Award date>

Date of provisional registration: <Award date>

Date of full registration: <Award date>

Date of current entry from: <Award date>

Specialist Register entry:

Specialty	Sub-specialty	Date of entry
<Specialty>	<Sub specialty>	<Date of entry into Register>
<Specialty>	<Sub specialty>	<Date of entry into Register>

GP Register entry date: <Date of entry into GP Register>

Practitioner’s address: <Organisation>, <Department>, <Address Line 1>, <Address Line 2>, <Address Line 3>, <Address Line 4>, <City>, <County>, <Postcode>, <Country>

Certificate of Current Professional Status (Good Standing)

Name: <Register Name>

GMC reference number: <GMC Reference Number>

This certificate

All doctors who want to practise medicine in the UK must hold both registration **and** a licence to practise.

If the doctor’s current status includes a reference to APS, this means their practice in the UK is subject to the requirements of our approved practice settings (APS) scheme. You can find more information about APS at www.gmc-uk.org/aps/.

This certificate does not guarantee that this doctor's status on the register has not changed. You can check this doctor's status on the register, and find up to date details of their eligibility to practise medicine in the UK, at www.gmc-uk.org/lrmp or by calling us.



Jane Durkin
Assistant Registrar