

Revalidation Frequently Asked Questions for overseas regulators and overseas organisations

What is revalidation?

Revalidation is an evaluation of a doctor's fitness to practise. It supports doctors in regularly reflecting on how they can develop or improve their practice and gives patients confidence that doctors are up to date.

Every doctor who holds a licence to practise in the UK must revalidate to show they are up to date and fit to practise.

Most doctors have a [connection to a designated body](#) and will revalidate through a process of annual appraisals based on *Good medical practice* and a five yearly recommendation from their responsible officer or suitable person. We make a revalidation decision based on this recommendation and other information available to us.*

Read our guidance on revalidation for doctors with a connection at <http://www.gmc-uk.org/revldbconnection>.

Doctors [without a connection](#) revalidate through a process of annual appraisals based on Good medical practice, annual returns and a five yearly assessment. We make a revalidation decision based on the outcomes of these activities. Doctors who work wholly overseas are unlikely to have a connection to a designated body.

Read our guidance on revalidation for doctors without a connection at www.gmc-uk.org/revlnoconnection.

* A designated body is usually the organisation the doctor works for.

Can non-UK organisations be designated bodies?

No. Only UK organisations can be designated bodies. This is because the regulations that give them this legal status (The Medical Profession (Responsible Officers) Regulations 2010) only cover the UK.

Do doctors who practise wholly outside the UK need to hold a licence to practise?

No. Doctors who work wholly outside of the UK do not need a licence to practise in the UK. The licence to practise gives doctors legal rights and privileges in the UK (such as writing prescriptions) that do not apply in any other country in the world. Doctors who work wholly outside the UK must abide by whatever regulatory requirements exist in the country in which they practise.

Doctors who work wholly outside the UK can hold registration without a licence instead. They can apply to restore their licence if they wish to return to the UK to practise in the future. They can also give up their licence and registration entirely.

How will licensed doctors who don't practise in the UK revalidate?

The revalidation process for doctors without a connection to a designated body is the same, regardless of where the doctor practises.

You can read more about the process at www.gmc-uk.org/revalnoconnection.

What is the difference between registration with and without a licence to practise?

Doctors can be registered with a licence to practise or registered without a licence to practise.

Doctors who practise medicine in the UK must hold registration with a licence to practise. The licence gives a doctor the legal authority to do certain activities in the UK such as holding certain medical posts, prescribing medicines and signing death certificates. All doctors who hold a licence must participate in revalidation.

Holding registration without a licence allows doctors to show that they are in good standing with the GMC. Holding registration without a licence means doctors:

- must continue to follow the guidance in *Good medical practice*
- are still subject to our fitness to practise processes

- remain on the list of medical practitioners (the UK medical register)
- do not have to revalidate

More information about giving up a doctor's licence to practise can be found at www.gmc-uk.org/giveupltp.

How can a doctor holding registration restore their licence?

Doctors who want to return to work in the UK at any point can apply to restore their licence to practise on their return to the UK. The process for restoring a licence when holding full registration is relatively straightforward for most doctors.

More information about restoring a doctor's licence to practise can be found at www.gmc-uk.org/applylicence.

How do I know if a doctor holds GMC registration and/or a licence to practise?

The GMC has an online register, called the List of Registered Medical Practitioners, which provides details of all doctors on the GMC's register. Our online register is available here: www.gmc-uk.org/register. The Register will give you details of:

- the type of registration a doctor holds
- whether they hold a licence to practise
- the date that they registered
- whether they have any fitness to practise history since 20 October 2005