

Guidance on what may constitute appropriate evidence relating to medical practice

Introduction

- 1 This guidance is for decision makers within the Registration and Revalidation directorate who are asked to consider whether appropriate evidence has been provided by a doctor in relation to their medical practice.
- 2 This guidance aims to ensure consistency, fairness, and proportionality in our approach to making decisions in this area, and should be read in conjunction with the [principles which apply to decision making](#) in relation to registration and revalidation.
- 3 Decision makers may need to refer to this guidance:
 - a. in Registration when considering whether a doctor has the [necessary knowledge, skills and experience to be granted registration in the UK](#), or,
 - b. in Revalidation when considering whether a doctor has provided the [necessary information for revalidation](#).

Factors to consider

- 4 Our current guidance on what constitutes appropriate evidence of medical practice is informed by the medical specialities for which the GMC recognises postgraduate training qualifications¹, as well as the legislation specifying the privileges restricted to licensed medical practitioners². In considering whether or not something provides the necessary evidence of medical practice the decision maker should bear in mind this information and refer to it where required.
- 5 Decision makers will consider the following questions in reaching their decisions:

<u>Checklist</u>	
1	If the doctor has been working outside clinical practice, have they still been undertaking medical practice in another form?
2	Has the doctor’s practice included assessing, diagnosing, treating, reporting or giving advice in a medical capacity? This might for example include non-clinical practice such as giving advice as a member of a panel or committee, as an expert

¹ The list of UK medical specialties http://www.gmc-uk.org/education/A-Z_by_specialty.asp.

² A summary of the privileges restricted to licensed doctors in the UK can be found [here](#).
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	witness, or in the context of medical defence union work?
3	Has the doctor been working in the area of public health medicine, and/or has their role included teaching, research, medical or health management in hospitals, clinics, general practice and community and institutional contexts?
4	<p>If the doctor has or is undertaking “research”, this may:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • refer to any experimental study into the causes, treatment or prevention of ill health and disease in humans, involving people or their tissues or organs or data. • include toxicity studies, clinical trials, genetic studies, epidemiological research including analyses of medical records, and other collections and analyses of data about health and illness, whether anonymised or not. • cover clinical research which may be therapeutic, that is of potential benefit to patients who participate, and non-therapeutic, where no immediate benefit to those patients or volunteers who participate is expected. • It does not apply to clinical audit which involves no experimental study³
5	Did or does the doctor’s practice involve signing any medical certificate required for statutory purposes, such as death and cremation certificates? This excludes signing passport photographs.
6	Did or does the doctor’s practice involve the prescribing of medicines, the sale or supply of which is restricted by law to prescription by medical practitioners?
7	If the doctor’s medical practice has taken the form of postgraduate or continuing medical education this qualification may have been obtained by instruction or research, and on a full-time or part-time basis.
8	In all of the previous points has or is the doctor required to use the knowledge, skills, attitudes and competences initially obtained for the MB BS degree (or equivalent) and built upon in postgraduate and continuing medical education? ⁴
9	Having taken all the above factors into account, does the information submitted provide us with the necessary evidence in relation to the doctor’s medical practice?

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³ Source: [GMC Guidance on Research](#)

⁴ Where a doctor is engaged in a role which is not restricted to holders of an MB BS (or equivalent) such a role cannot be said to be medical practice (Registration Committee [paper](#) and [minutes](#), 15 November 2007).