

GMC COMMENT ON GOC CET CONSULTATION

The General Medical Council (GMC) welcomes the opportunity to respond to the General Optical Council (GOC) consultation on how to develop the current system of Continuing Education and Training (CET).

We support the direction being undertaken by GOC on both the CET Review and the Education Strategic Review, particularly GOC's proposal to link the CET requirements to more high-level learning outcomes based on the proposed Standards of Practice for Optometrists and Dispensing Opticians. This aligns with the GMC continuing professional development (CPD) approach identified in the *Good Medical Practice Framework for appraisal and revalidation* which take account of the domains and attributes in *Good Medical Practice*, *Generic Professional Capabilities* framework (GPC) and *Outcomes for Graduates*. These set out the principles, values and standards on which good medical practice is founded and form the basis of doctors' CPD activities to maintain and further develop their competence and performance skills.

We also support the view proposed by GOC that optical education and training and CET should ensure that both students and optical professionals are equipped for future roles. Linking CET to high level learning outcomes and standards allows for flexibility to undertake self-directed learning activities focused on developing skills that are most relevant to individual needs and that take account of changes in the professional roles and the practicing environment. In particular, the adoption of a more flexible CET approach will enable optical professionals to undertake learning activities that will ensure they can respond to and keep pace with changing demand for services and advancements in technology.

GMC recognises that for technology to fulfil its potential, there will need to be a transformation in how the medical profession is shaped. In this context, we will be exploring how the GPCs and the revalidation processes can practically support the medical profession as it develops more technological approaches. We have already updated the GPCs to reflect areas such as telemedicine and genomics, which need to be reflected in post-graduate curricula. Our expectation has always been that doctors continue to learn and maintain their knowledge of new developments across a career. However, the pace of technological innovation could produce a step-change in this, with doctors needing to demonstrate that they can apply different levels of knowledge, skills and judgement to

changing processes, increasingly supported by better technology and more detailed information. There is also a role for doctors in leading this change, and we may want to consider how the leadership responsibilities of doctors in relation to technological changes can be reflected in the GPCs.

The CET review points out that there may need to be greater emphasis on critical thinking skills and improving future performance by analysing previous experiences. Reflective practice plays a key role in this, allowing an individual to think analytically about anything relating to their professional practice in order to gain insight and using the lessons learned to maintain good practice and/or make improvements where possible. GMC has recently undertaken a review and revision of its Reflective Practice guidance and this revised version will be published in the near future.

Listed below, for your information, are Links to GMC's *CPD guidance*, *Good Medical Practice*, *Generic Professional Capabilities Framework*, and *Outcomes for Graduates*.

<https://www.gmc-uk.org/education/standards-guidance-and-curricula/guidance/continuing-professional-development>

<https://www.gmc-uk.org/ethical-guidance/ethical-guidance-for-doctors/good-medical-practice>

<https://www.gmc-uk.org/education/standards-guidance-and-curricula/standards-and-outcomes/generic-professional-capabilities-framework>

<https://www.gmc-uk.org/education/standards-guidance-and-curricula/standards-and-outcomes/outcomes-for-graduates>

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