



# Giving up your registration or licence to practise

Working with doctors Working for patients

General  
Medical  
Council

If you want to give up your registration, there is a legal process we have to follow to make sure you leave the medical register in good standing.

If you are not working as a doctor or doing other work for which you need a licence to practise, you can instead choose to stay registered but give up your licence.

### **Giving up your registration**

Before you can give up your registration, we first have to confirm that you are still in good standing with your employer. This might seem strange when you will no longer be working as a doctor in the UK, but it's important we do this to protect patients.

If we didn't, doctors facing an investigation into their fitness to practise could simply give up their registration and we wouldn't be able to take any further action. They could then apply to rejoin our medical register (or another regulator's register) at a later date and continue treating patients. Confirming doctors are in good standing when they leave the medical register prevents this from happening.

### **What do you need to do?**

You need to send us two kinds of evidence that you are fit to practise:

- a form from your employer, or the organisation with which you have an arrangement or contract to provide medical services, confirming your relationship with them and that you're in good standing
- certificates of good standing from any other regulators you've been registered with in the past five years.

You also need to fill in an application form – you can do this on your GMC Online account. (If you have any outstanding fees, you will need to pay these before we can process your application.)



### What are the advantages of the process?

The medical register will show that **you** chose to end your registration.

- Your name will still be shown on the medical register so anyone looking you up on the online medical register will be able to find you listed there and see that you were in good standing when you gave up your registration.
- If you decide to move overseas, we can give another regulator a certificate confirming your professional status at the time you gave up your registration – eg confirmation you left the register in good standing.
- You can rejoin the medical register without paying the restoration fee (you will need to pay the annual retention fee only).

### Can I just stop paying my fee instead?

No. If you stop paying your fee, your registration will end but your entry will be shown as 'not registered – administrative reason'. If you apply to rejoin the medical register at a later date, you will have to pay a fee in addition to the annual retention fee to do so.

### Find out more

You can find out more, and apply online, on our website at [www.gmc-uk.org/applications](http://www.gmc-uk.org/applications).



You won't be involved in revalidation (until you have a licence to practise again).



## Giving up your licence to practise

There is a simple process to give up your licence.

### What do you need to do?

You need to fill in an application form – you can do this on your GMC Online account.

You don't need to show us any documents, but you do need to confirm that you understand the limits of being registered without a licence.

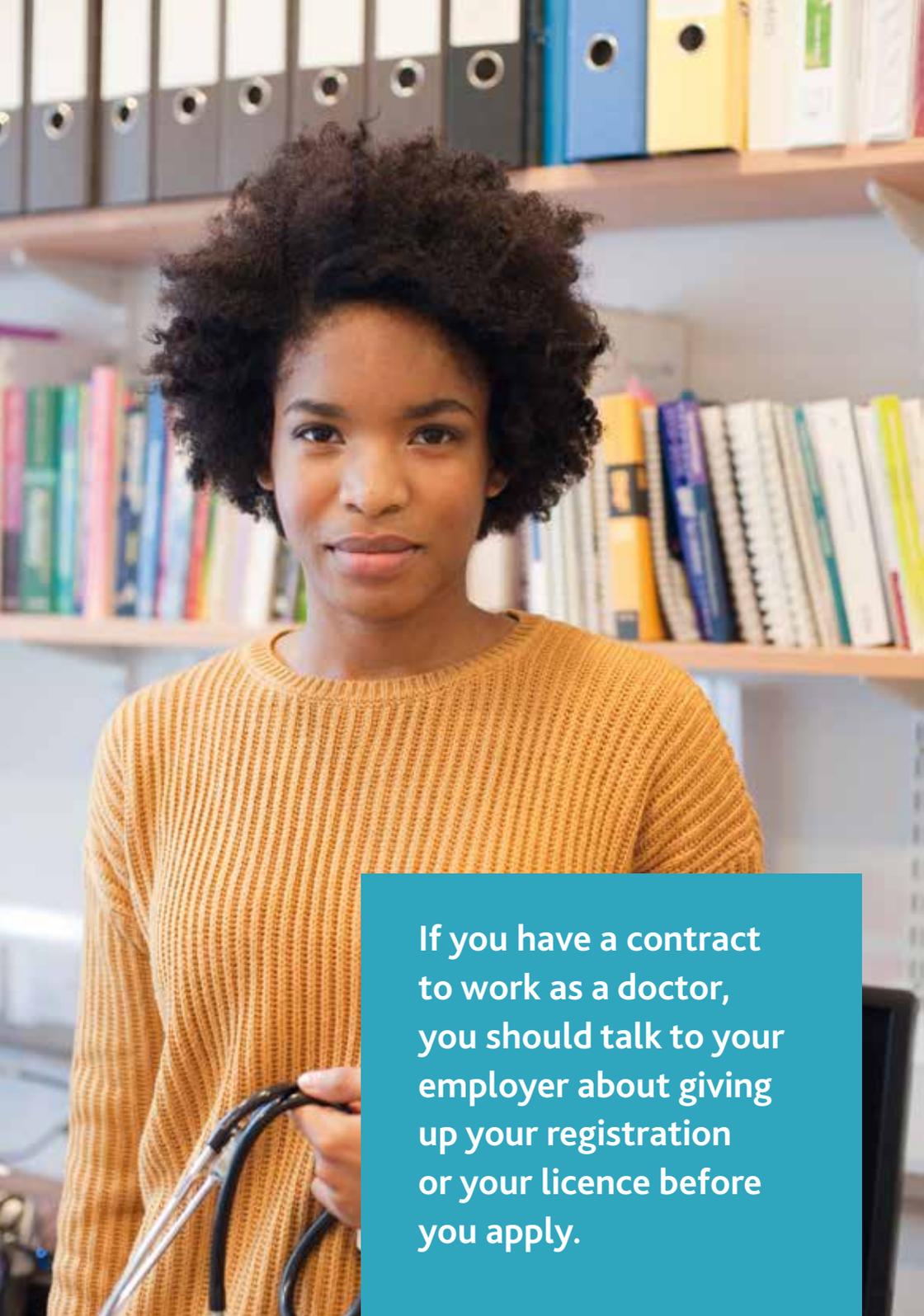
Your registration **without** a licence to practise will begin from the date we receive your application form, unless you have chosen a future date, which can be up to 28 days from the date of your application.

## What are the advantages of the process?

- There is no fee to give up your licence and you will pay a reduced annual retention fee.
- You will keep your professional connection with us and you can ask us to confirm your professional status to other regulators or employers if you need to. Your entry on the medical register (and on the GP and Specialist Registers if applicable) will show that you are still registered but do not have a licence to practise.
- You won't be involved in revalidation (until you have a licence to practise again).

### Find out more

You can find out more, and apply online, on our website at [www.gmc-uk.org/applications](http://www.gmc-uk.org/applications).



**If you have a contract to work as a doctor, you should talk to your employer about giving up your registration or your licence before you apply.**

Email: [gmc@gmc-uk.org](mailto:gmc@gmc-uk.org)

Website: [www.gmc-uk.org](http://www.gmc-uk.org)

Telephone: **0161 923 6602**

General Medical Council, 3 Hardman Street, Manchester M3 3AW

To ask for this publication in Welsh, or in another format or language, please call us on **0161 923 6602** or email us at **[publications@gmc-uk.org](mailto:publications@gmc-uk.org)**.

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