

National Training Survey 2026

Briefing note 3

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Four questionnaire scripts accompany this briefing note:

- **Annex A**: the demographic and generic questions for all doctors in training (the 'trainee survey')
- **Annex B**: questions specifically for doctors training in a Foundation Programme
- **Annex C**: provides the questions for clinical and educational supervisors (the 'trainer' survey)
- **Annex D**: questionnaire for clinical and educational supervisors on GP programmes
- **Annex E**: questionnaire for clinical academic doctors in training.

Details of new, amended, and deleted questions can be found in the tables at the end of this note.

Summary of 2026 Questionnaire Developments

Trainee survey

- We are introducing a new academic survey. This is for doctors in an academic training programme and those completing the generic survey who indicate they have protected research time.
- We have added a new standalone question on working with multidiscipline healthcare professionals. We have also amended the response options for an existing standalone question on multidiscipline healthcare professionals.
- We have added response options to two existing questions in the less than full time section of the survey.
- In 2025 we piloted two new questions on clinical supervision and clinical supervision out of hours. These will be included as indicator questions this year.

Trainer survey

- We have made no changes to the trainer questionnaire for 2026.

Trainee survey changes

New questions

Academic survey

We are introducing a new academic survey for 2026 (see annex E for the full question set). This section of the survey will be completed by doctors that are in a clinical academic training programme, and those who indicate they have protected research time.

This is the first major development of the academic script since it was introduced in 2012. The survey has been redesigned in collaboration with key stakeholders in academic medical education, including the COPMeD postgraduate dean for academic affairs. The proposed changes were also piloted with academic trainees in 2025. As well as asking doctors about their experiences in clinical academic research or study, for the first time academic trainees will receive the burnout and less than full time questions.

Multidiscipline healthcare professionals

We've introduced a new standalone question asking trainees whether their organisation encourages a culture of shared learning and knowledge sharing between multidiscipline healthcare professionals.

This question will accompany the existing questions on experiences of multidiscipline working and teamwork.

Amendments

Multidiscipline healthcare professionals

We have amended the answer options for a question asking which wider healthcare professionals you work with in your post. We have added 'Nurses', 'Occupational therapists', 'Sonographers' and 'Social Workers' to the list. We have renamed 'Scientific laboratory professionals' as 'Healthcare scientists (e.g. clinical or biomedical scientists)'.

Clinical supervision

In 2025, we introduced two new questions on clinical supervision and clinical supervision out of hours. Post-survey reliability testing using Cronbach's Alpha has shown that these questions strengthen the feedback indicator. As a result, they will be included in indicator scoring from 2026.

Less than full time working

We have added a new response option relating to clinical research/study to two of the less than full time (LTFT) working questions: one addressing challenges of working LTFT and one exploring reasons for choosing LTFT.

Contact

If you have any questions, please get in touch with the surveys team at nts@gmc-uk.org.

Table one – new questions (trainee)

	Topic	Question	Response options
New question GENHQ264 GENFQ264 GENPQ264	Multidiscipline healthcare professionals	My organisation encourages a culture of shared learning and knowledge sharing between multidiscipline healthcare professionals.	Strongly Agree Agree Neither agree nor disagree Disagree Strongly disagree Not applicable

Table two – removals and amendments (trainee survey)*

	Topic	Question	Response options
Amended question GENHQ220 GENFQ220 GENPQ220	Multidiscipline healthcare professionals	Please indicate which of the following wider healthcare professionals you work with in this post. (Please select all that apply)	Advanced Nurse Practitioners Anaesthesia Associates Community Health Practitioners Dentists Healthcare scientists (e.g. clinical or biomedical scientists) Midwives Nurses Occupational therapists Pharmacists Physician Associates Physiotherapists Psychologists Radiographers Scientific laboratory professionals Social workers Sonographers Other None
Amended question GENHQ261 GENFQ261 GENPQ261	Less than full time	In this post have you experienced any of the following challenges working less than full time? (Tick all that apply)	N/A – I've not experienced any challenges working LTFT in this post Rota design issues Balancing clinical and academic/research commitments Balancing work and personal commitments

* New or amended text is in blue. Removed text is red.

			Financial concerns Negative workplace attitudes towards LTFT Changing posts process Availability of LTFT posts Administrative issues e.g. annual leave allocation or being paid incorrectly Other
Amended question GENHQ152 GENFQ152 GENPQ152	Less than full time	Which of the following best describes why you chose to train (or have considered training) on a less than full time basis? (Tick all that apply)	Disability, illness or health related reason Childcare Caring for a child with a disability, long term illness or additional needs Caring for an adult (e.g. a parent, family member or friend) Other work commitments (e.g. professional development opportunities) Other external commitments (e.g. leisure, religious or community commitments) To focus on clinical academic research or study To have a better work-life balance To support my return to work following time out of clinical practice I'm part of a current (or previous) LTFT pilot offered by my specialty Other

Table three – indicator changes (trainee)

	Topic	Question	Response options
Indicator change GENHQ262	Clinical supervision (Hospital version)	In this post, how often (if ever) do you feel apprehensive or hesitant about escalating a patient to the supervising clinician? This may be your named clinical supervisor, or it may be another doctor.	Daily Weekly Monthly Less than once a month Never Not applicable
Indicator change GENPQ262	Clinical supervision (Public health version)	In this post, how often (if ever) do you feel apprehensive or hesitant about escalating a patient to your available senior support?	Daily Weekly Monthly Less than once a month Never Not applicable

Indicator change GENHQ263	Clinical supervision out-of-hours (Hospital version)	In this post, OUT OF HOURS, how often (if ever) do you feel apprehensive or hesitant about escalating a patient to the supervising clinician? This may be your named clinical supervisor, or it may be another doctor.	Daily Weekly Monthly Less than once a month Never Not applicable
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