

Annual Quality Assurance Summary

This summary provides an overview of how an organisation is meeting our standards for medical education and training as detailed in [Promoting excellence: standards for medical education and training](#) and [Assuring readiness for practice: a framework for the MLA](#). It provides an overview of the QA activities undertaken over the course of a year and an overview of findings including any areas of notable practice or requirements and recommendations we have set. The summary is published.

Organisation	University of Nottingham School of Medicine
Review period	June 2025 – June 2026 (Year 1, 2 nd PQA cycle)

Overview of findings

Overall findings statement
From the SAQ submission, and the clarification of some points during the SAQ meeting, we consider that University of Nottingham School of Medicine is meeting the standards set out in the GMC's <i>Promoting excellence: standards for medical education and training</i>. The QA activities that we have carried out in this annual cycle have provided opportunities to observe how University of Nottingham School of Medicine meets our standards in Theme 5 (Developing and implementing curricula and assessments) of <i>Promoting excellence</i> and demonstrates continued compliance with <i>Assuring readiness for practice: a framework for the MLA</i> (the 'MLA Framework'). In 2025 we decided that medical schools and postgraduate training organisations that had completed an initial cycle of four self-assessment questionnaires could move to a biennial submission, following an assessment of their previous submissions. As a result of this assessment University of Nottingham School of Medicine has now moved to a biennial model so does not submit a self-assessment questionnaire (SAQ) in 2026. The next date of submission is 30 May 2027.

Quality activity undertaken

	Activity	Date	Summary
1	SAQ submission	30 May 2025	The SAQ was submitted on time and covered all five themes of <i>Promoting excellence</i>. The submission included a list of planned University of Nottingham School of Medicine activities that we could observe for quality assurance purposes. We are satisfied that where further information and/or clarification is still required that this can be provided in the next SAQ submission.
2	SAQ feedback meeting	30 July 2025	This meeting was held to provide feedback to University of Nottingham School of Medicine on its 2024/2025 SAQ submission, and to seek clarification and additional information on the submission where required. We also discussed potential QA activities we could undertake in this annual cycle. These activities were selected to improve our understanding of University of Nottingham School of Medicine processes. We did not identify areas of risk during the SAQ meeting. Following this meeting, University of Nottingham School of Medicine was provided with written feedback on the SAQ submission.
3	In-person observation of Medical Licensing Assessment (MLA) clinical and professional skills assessment (CPSA)	12 March 2026	The activity consisted of an in-person visit to Royal Derby Hospital, Derby to observe the MLA CPSA. Ahead of the observation, the School shared relevant materials with us including student, examiner and simulated patient briefings, a timetable for the day and Terms of Reference for the School's CPSA Community of Medical School Examiners (COMSE). University of Nottingham School of Medicine's CPSA comprises 14 stations with testing occurring over two days across a two-week period. The assessment includes eight 10-minute stations and

			six linked 20-minute stations (consisting of two consecutive 10-minute stations based on the same clinical scenario). During our visit, the GMC team attended on a linked station day, with nine circuits running and five rotations scheduled. We were able to view a sample of stations across the circuits and engage with staff facilitating the assessments to seek clarification where needed during the observations. At the end of our visit, we met with the School's Director of Assessments, where we discussed any remaining questions and clarifications.
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Quality Reporting System (QRS)

We use the QRS to monitor concerns raised by an organisation when they identify that our standards are not being met in an education and training environment. Concerns are managed locally by the responsible organisation until resolution. We also use the QRS to monitor requirements and recommendations set by the GMC.

Activity	Date	Summary
Quality Reporting System (QRS)	Ongoing	University of Nottingham School of Medicine have four open items on the QRS, three of which relate to the MLA. We will continue to work with University of Nottingham School of Medicine to ensure our thresholds for reporting via the QRS are embedded and adhered to.

Next steps

The GMC's written feedback on the SAQ submitted in May 2025 lists any areas that we require an update on in the next SAQ submission. These include:

Theme one

LEC1-04 – An update on the evaluation of the project, focusing on the School's involvement in a regional initiative to roll out Schwartz Rounds and how this will support student learning.

LEC1-04 – An update on how the new curriculum will support interprofessional learning (IPL) and help address timetabling challenges.

LEC1-05 – An update on the ongoing development of the programme of drop-in activity to allow students additional practice time and steps taken by the School to address issues around time and space constraints.

LEC1-06 – An update on how the new approach to collecting feedback from LEPs (via submission of six-monthly reports) is progressing.

LEC1-07 – An update on the University of Nottingham's approved investment to develop new teaching classrooms, clinical skills facilities, and eight simulation rooms on University Park.

Theme two

EGL1-01 - An update on the School's progress in addressing ongoing challenges around enforcing performance standards for underperforming LEPs largely due to structural challenges within the NHS, including any developments in discussions with NHS England around leverage mechanisms (e.g. withdrawal of placements and funding).

Theme four

SUE1-01 - Updates on the restructuring process and any potential future impacts on staffing, recruitment, or curriculum delivery.

SUE1-02 – An update on the progress of plans and the resulting changes to the current structure, particularly regarding the School's move from parallel courses to a single programme launching in 2026, as well as the comprehensive faculty development programme planned for the coming year.

SUE1-04 - An update on the progress of the School's engagement with its LEP Trusts regarding the application of the Education Tariff, and on the outcomes of the individual Trusts' reviews of their Education Tariff application.

Theme five

DCA4-01 – The School has provided us with further details of the new curriculum. Please provide an update on curriculum implementation.

Entry Routes

ER1-01 – An update on the decision regarding whether current Derby Graduate Entry Medicine students will complete the existing curriculum at Derby or transfer to Nottingham from 2026. We understand that the decision will be dependent on confirmation from Estates.

Updates from quality activities undertaken

In addition to these updates, we also require updates on areas we highlighted in quality activities we have undertaken as follows:

1. We would like the School to review the training of calibration leads and reflect on areas that would benefit from further refinement in the next SAQ submission. (CPSA R11: Examiners)
2. The School should consider the variety of the simulated patient pool to strengthen reliability and consistency in simulated patient (SP) performance. We would like an update on developments in this area in the next SAQ submission. (CPSA R12: Simulated/real patients)
3. The School should consider introducing a structured calibration opportunity on the assessment day to help reinforce expectations and promote greater consistency across SPs. We would like an update on developments in this area in the next SAQ submission. (CPSA R12: Simulated/real patients)
4. We advise the School to align this Global Impression Score explicitly with 'day-one F1 doctor' expectations to avoid any ambiguity. We would like an update on this in the next SAQ submission. (CPSA R3: Scoring)

Updates on MLA items

We also require updates on the following MLA items. These items are currently logged on the QRS:

- **CPSA R05: Assessing professionalism:** The assessment provider should submit an update on their progress on developing new stations with a professionalism focus.
- **CPSA R14: Feedback to examiners and simulated patients:** The assessment provider should submit an update on the impact of the feedback provided to examiners, and the effect on future marking behaviours.

Furthermore, the School plans to move the CPSA to a dedicated assessment centre next year which will be on campus. This is expected to address current limitations relating to room layout

and noise transfer. **We would ask the School to complete a 'change form' for this move and submit this to us now to enable us to provide support.**

Organisation's response

The organisation has the right to reply to this summary; if they have responded it will be included below.

Organisation's response