Guidance for revalidation decision makers

Revalidation and restoration of a licence to practise

1. This guidance describes when we may decide that a doctor should revalidate prior to restoring their licence to practise.

2. On restoration of a licence to practise, a doctor’s submission date will usually be set five years from the point of restoration. However, there are two very specific and limited circumstances in which we may decide to require a doctor to revalidate by successfully completing an assessment or evaluation of their fitness to practise, prior to deciding whether to restore their licence.¹ This won’t affect doctors who have had a short break in practice to, for example, carry out voluntary work or work overseas, or doctors who have taken parental leave.

3. Wherever possible, we will decide to revalidate doctors based on their participation in the systems and processes that support revalidation locally, and on a recommendation from their responsible officer or suitable person.

4. The two specific scenarios in which we may decide to require a doctor to revalidate prior to restoring their licence are where:

   a. a doctor stops practising for an extended period of time (a minimum of five years) and then seeks restoration

   b. we consider a doctor to have relinquished their licence or applied for voluntary erasure in order to avoid revalidation.

Other decisions we may make about revalidation and restoration

5. Requiring doctors to revalidate prior to the restoration of their licence is one example of when we may decide to require doctors to revalidate at a point other than the standard five year period. Other examples of where we may require doctors to revalidate sooner than five years are outlined in our guidance for revalidation decision makers ‘Changing a doctor’s submission date’.

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¹ GMC (Licence to Practise and Revalidation) Regulations 2012, Reg 5(5) and (6)