Guidance for revalidation decision makers

Revalidation and withdrawal of a licence to practise

1. This guidance describes the circumstances in which we may decide to withdraw a doctor’s licence to practise because of a failure to meet one or more of the requirements we set for their revalidation.

2. This guidance does not apply to instances where doctors voluntarily decide to give up their registration and/or licence to practise (i.e. applications for voluntary erasure or to relinquish their licence).

The requirement to revalidate

3. Only those doctors who hold registration with a licence to practise can be subject to revalidation. As such, doctors are not subject to revalidation when:

   a. they are erased from the medical register

   b. they make a successful application to relinquish their licence

   c. we withdraw the doctor’s licence to practise.

Statutory duties placed on licensed doctors

4. The GMC (Licence to Practise and Revalidation) Regulations 2012 place duties on licensed doctors in respect of their own revalidation. Specifically, the regulations list the following circumstances where we may withdraw a doctor’s licence.

   a. A doctor fails, without reasonable excuse, to comply with a requirement set out in guidance published by the GMC under section 29G of the Medical Act.¹

   b. A doctor who has been given notice of their submission date fails, without reasonable excuse, to provide any evidence relating to their

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¹ GMC (Licence to Practise and Revalidation) Regulations 2012, Reg 4(3)(a)
revalidation reasonably requested by the GMC on or before their submission date.\(^2\)

c. A doctor who does not have a prescribed connection to a designated body or a connection to a suitable person, fails without reasonable excuse, to undergo an assessment required by the GMC.\(^3\)

d. A doctor fails, without reasonable excuse, to provide any evidence or information required by the GMC about their employment, responsible officer or designated body.\(^4\)

e. A doctor fails, without reasonable excuse, to provide any further information or evidence reasonably requested by the GMC.\(^5\)

f. A doctor fraudulently provides evidence or information relevant to revalidation to the GMC.\(^6\)

g. A doctor fails, without reasonable excuse, to pay a required fee.\(^7\)

5. Where we believe that a doctor has failed to comply with any of these requirements we will make a decision about whether there is a ‘reasonable excuse’ for their failure. We will then make one of the following two decisions:

a. to continue the doctor’s revalidation as normal, where we determine that a ‘reasonable excuse’ exists

b. to begin the process of withdrawing the doctor’s licence to practise where we determine that no ‘reasonable excuse’ accounts for their failure to comply with our request.

The process of withdrawing a licence

6. The process for withdrawing a doctor’s licence is set out in Regulation 4(4) of the GMC (Licence to Practise and Revalidation) Regulations 2012.

7. Where we decide that we will withdraw a doctor’s licence to practise, we will notify the doctor, informing them that we are minded to withdraw their licence and providing the reasons for doing so. The doctor will then have 28 days to respond, or to undertake the action that they failed to take, such as providing the requested information.

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\(^2\) GMC (Licence to Practise and Revalidation) Regulations 2012, Reg 4(3)(b)
\(^3\) GMC (Licence to Practise and Revalidation) Regulations 2012, Reg 4(3)(c)
\(^4\) GMC (Licence to Practise and Revalidation) Regulations 2012, Reg 4(3)(d)
\(^5\) GMC (Licence to Practise and Revalidation) Regulations 2012, Reg 4(3)(e)
\(^6\) GMC (Licence to Practise and Revalidation) Regulations 2012, Reg 4(3)(f)
\(^7\) GMC (Licence to Practise and Revalidation) Regulations 2012, Reg 4(3)(g)
8. Any new evidence from the doctor will be taken into account by the GMC in making a decision about the withdrawal of the doctor’s licence.

**Appealing our decision to withdraw a licence**

9. If a doctor’s licence is withdrawn, we may advise the doctor of evidence or information that will be required if the doctor were to subsequently apply to restore their licence.\(^8\)

10. The doctor has the right of appeal to a Registration Appeals Panel if their licence is withdrawn.\(^9\) Appeals are handled by the GMC Appeals team.


**Last updated: February 2013**

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\(^8\) GMC (Licence to Practise and Revalidation) Regulations 2012, Reg 4(4)

\(^9\) Medical Act 1983 s29F