



**FACULTY OF
PHARMACEUTICAL MEDICINE
OF THE ROYAL COLLEGES OF PHYSICIANS
OF THE UNITED KINGDOM**

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Dear colleagues

The Faculty of Pharmaceutical Medicine's Position on Revalidation

Those of us who hold medical registration in the United Kingdom have been receiving letters from the General Medical Council (GMC) inviting us to indicate if we wish to take up a Licence to Practise. I thought that you would be interested to read the Faculty's position on this, which is as follows:

One of the key aims of the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Medicine is to set and maintain the highest standards within the specialty for the benefit of the public. Revalidation is one method by which this can be attained. The Faculty supports the concept of revalidation, and will work to ensure that the underlying process reflects the activities of, and is relevant to, pharmaceutical physicians. The mechanism for the revalidation of medical practitioners in the United Kingdom is currently under review by the Department of Health and GMC.

There are two circumstances under which doctors will need a GMC Licence to Practise. These are if they are undertaking any form of medical practice which under UK law currently requires GMC registration or if it is written into their terms of employment.

Whether or not there is a legal or contractual reason for doing so, maintaining a GMC Licence to Practise may be important to you and those who you work for if the demonstration of your medical credibility is a key requirement of your job or role. The Faculty understands that the MHRA will require those it employs as doctors to maintain a Licence to Practise. It is anticipated that other employers for whom pharmaceutical physicians work will also require this. Therefore maintaining a Licence to Practise may also be important to individuals in the future if they change employer.

The ABPI Code of Practice for the Pharmaceutical Industry currently requires that a registered medical practitioner certifies promotional material. A review by the ABPI of this requirement to take into account the introduction of the GMC Licence to Practise has not yet taken place.

The Faculty of Pharmaceutical Medicine recommends that practising pharmaceutical physicians take up and maintain a GMC Licence to Practise.

We understand that the GMC will be publishing a detailed set of Frequently Asked Questions covering revalidation. The Faculty will ensure that access to these is available through its website.

As always, please contact me with any comments or questions.

With kind regards

Dr Susan Bews
President

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