

General Medical Council consultation

- Writing References
- Acting as an Expert Witness

Background, objectives and consultation questions

January-March 2007

Please return your responses by 26 March 2007 to:

Standards and Ethics Section
General Medical Council
Regents Place
350 Euston Road
London
NW1 3JN

Email: standards.consult@gmc-uk.org

Telephone: 020 7189 5404

Your details

Name _____

Job Title _____

Organisation _____

Address _____

Email _____

Contact Tel _____

If you are responding as an **individual**, which of the following categories best describes you?

Doctor

Patient

Member of the public

Other (*please give details*) _____

We aim to consult as effectively as possible. To help us ensure our consultations are reaching a wide audience, please fill in the information below. This information will be used to help us publicise and target our consultations more effectively; it will not be used in the consultation analysis.

Country of residence:

England

Northern Ireland

Scotland

Wales

Other

What is your gender?

Female

Male

What is your ethnic origin?

Would you describe yourself as having a disability?

Yes

No

If you are responding as a **representative of an organisation**, which of the following categories best describes your organisation?

Medical body

Patient representative body

Regulatory body

Public/representative body
(please give details)

Other *(please give details)*

Please note that your response will be used for analysis and may be made public. If you would prefer your response to remain private, please indicate this by ticking this box:

Background

What is the General Medical Council's guidance and who is it for?

The GMC registers doctors to practise medicine in the UK. Our purpose is to protect, promote and maintain the health and safety of the public by ensuring proper standards in the practice of medicine.

In order to achieve our purpose, the GMC issues guidance for doctors.

Our core guidance booklet, Good Medical Practice, sets out the principles of good practice and the standards of professional conduct expected of doctors. While addressed to doctors, it is also intended to give the public an understanding of the standards they can expect of doctors.

Why is this consultation taking place?

A new edition of Good Medical Practice was launched in November 2006. It is accompanied by a series of supplementary documents which expand on some of the high level principles in Good Medical Practice, providing further explanation and examples so doctors and patients can better understand how the principles should be applied in practice.

We are currently consulting on two new pieces of supplementary guidance.

- Writing references
- Acting as an expert witness

These are both areas that have been identified where further guidance for doctors might be helpful.

Who is consulting?

This consultation is being run by the Standards and Ethics Team of the GMC.

Objectives

The purpose of this consultation is to seek views on the text of the draft guidance. In particular we are seeking to establish:

- a. Have we described the principles that are set out in the guidance
 - i. Clearly
 - ii. Accurately
- b. Is the guidance drafted such that it is
 - i. Relevant
 - ii. Useful and practical
 - iii. Realistic
 - iv. Promotes best practice
- c. Has anything been omitted from the text which could usefully be included, that is not satisfactorily addressed elsewhere in guidance issued by the GMC

Writing References

1. Do you think the guidance is clear?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. Not sure

Comments

2. Is the guidance helpful in further explaining the relevant paragraphs (paragraphs 19 and 65) of *Good Medical Practice*?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. Not sure

Comments

3. Are there any other issues around writing references on which guidance from the GMC would be helpful?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. Not sure

Comments

4. Do you have any other comments on the guidance?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. Not Sure

Acting as an Expert Witness

5. Do you think the guidance is clear?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. Not sure

Comments

6. Is the guidance helpful in further explaining the relevant paragraphs (paragraphs 66-67) of *Good Medical Practice*?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. Not sure

Comments

7. Are there any other issues around acting as an expert witness on which guidance from the GMC would be helpful?

- a. Yes
- b. No

c. Not sure

Comments

8. Do you have any other comments on the draft guidance?

a. Yes

b. No

c. Not sure

Comments