

Embargoed: not for publication or broadcast, including online, until 0001hrs Tuesday 26 March 2024

## GMC launches consultation on how it regulates physician associates and anaesthesia associates

The General Medical Council (GMC) is today (Tuesday 26 March) launching a consultation on the rules, standards and guidance by which it will regulate physician associates (PAs) and anaesthesia associates (AAs).

The UK government asked the GMC to regulate the two professions back in July 2019. Legislation paving the way for that to happen was laid in parliament in December 2023 and passed, in Westminster and Edinburgh, earlier this year. It will come into effect in December 2024.

The GMC must be ready to regulate PAs and AAs – in addition to the doctors it already regulates – by the end of 2024. Before that can happen there needs to be a consultation on the rules, standards and guidance that provide the detail for how regulation will be delivered.

<redaction s40(2)>, Chief Executive of the GMC, said:

‘Everyone agrees that regulation is needed and that it will benefit patient safety and public confidence. We are now setting out our proposed approach for how we will regulate these professions.

‘This consultation is not about whether the GMC should be the regulator but about how we regulate. The law requires us to take on this role from December this year.

‘It is important for us to hear feedback from representatives of patients, PAs, AAs, doctors and employers, as well as other stakeholders and from individuals. This consultation will determine how we implement the powers and duties the legislation gives us.’

The consultation, which opens today at 9am and runs for eight weeks until midnight on the night of Monday 20 May, also covers other areas of the GMC’s oversight of PAs and AAs. These include:

- Education and training,
- Registration,
- Fees,
- Dealing with concerns.

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In addition, the consultation is also asking for views on draft principles to inform the content of fitness to practise decision-making guidance that will, from the end of this year, apply to doctors as well as to PAs and AAs.

To find out more, and to get involved in the GMC's consultation – *Regulating anaesthesia associates and physician associates - consultation on our proposed rules, standards and guidance* – visit the [GMC's website](#).

## **Ends**

### **Notes to editors**

The GMC Press Office can be contacted on <redaction s40(2)>, or email <redaction s40(2)>

The General Medical Council (GMC) is the independent regulator of doctors in the UK.

The GMC works with doctors, their employers, their educators and others to:

- ▣ set the standards of patient care and professional behaviours doctors need to meet.
- ▣ make sure doctors get the education and training they need to deliver good, safe patient care.
- ▣ check who is eligible to work as a doctor in the UK and check they continue to meet the professional standards it sets throughout their careers.
- ▣ give guidance and advice to help doctors understand what's expected of them.
- ▣ investigate where there are concerns that patient safety, or the public's confidence in doctors, may be at risk, and take action if needed.

The GMC is independent of government and the professionals it regulates, and is accountable to the UK Parliament.

To find out more visit our website [www.gmc-uk.org](http://www.gmc-uk.org).

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