

**From:** WG Officer 6 <redaction s40(2)> (HSSG Director General's Office) on behalf of PS to DG for Health and Social Services Chief Executive NHS Wales <redaction s40(2)>  
**Sent:** 25 March 2024 13:26  
**To:** WG Officer 2 <redaction s40(2)> (HSS - NHS Workforce & Operations)  
**Subject:** FW: Opening Tuesday 26 March: seeking views on the rules, standards and guidance required to regulate physician associates and anaesthesia associates  
**Attachments:** AAPAO consultation\_press release final.pdf; Regulating AA and PAs external briefing.pdf

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**From:** GMC Wales <redaction s40(2)>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 25, 2024 1:24 PM  
**To:** WG Officer 5 <redaction s40(2)> (HSS - Health & Social Services)  
**Cc:** PS to DG for Health and Social Services Chief Executive NHS Wales <redaction s40(2)>  
**Subject:** Opening Tuesday 26 March: seeking views on the rules, standards and guidance required to regulate physician associates and anaesthesia associates

Dear <redaction s40(2)>

On Tuesday 26 March we'll open a public consultation on the rules, standards and guidance needed to implement the regulation of physician associates (PAs) and anaesthesia associates (AAs). We'll also use this consultation to ask for views on draft principles to inform the content of fitness to practise decision making guidance that will apply to all registrants – doctors, PAs and AAs – from the end of this year. [You can find a copy of the consultation document and supporting materials on our embargoed webpage.](#) We've also attached a copy of our press release and a short background briefing note. The consultation will be live from 26 March to 11.59pm on 20 May and [can be accessed on this webpage](#) between those dates.

It's clear that the consultation will take place during a period of intense debate about the roles and deployment of PAs and AAs in the health services. While there's more to do across the system to address these concerns, this consultation isn't about those matters. It's specific to how we'll implement the legislation passed by the UK and Scottish Parliaments which legally requires us to regulate PAs and AAs from December 2024. It cannot, and does not, reopen decisions that have already been settled in law, including which organisation should regulate these professions.

With this in mind, we'd be grateful for your support in encouraging engagement with, and responses to, the consultation. Regulation will help assure the public that PAs and AAs have the required knowledge, skills and experience to work safely. We want to hear views from individuals and organisations to help ensure the proposals we've put forward are clear, fair and proportionate, for:

- education and training of PAs and AAs
- registration of PAs and AAs
- dealing with concerns about PAs and AAs; and fitness to practise decision making principles for all registrants

- our approach to charging fees for our functions

### Next steps

The feedback we receive in this consultation will also help inform work on future changes to our regulatory framework for doctors, which will enable us to respond more quickly and flexibly when patient safety is at risk; and help us to better support good practice for all our registrants.

As we have throughout this process, we'll continue to reiterate the importance of professional and respectful behaviours at all times, especially when tensions are high.

Thank you for your continued engagement with this work. I hope this information has been helpful but if you have any questions or would like to arrange a short meeting to inform your consultation response, please don't hesitate to contact <redaction s40(2)>, Assistant Director Regulation Policy <redaction s40(2)> who will be happy to help.

Best wishes

<redaction s40(2)>

<redaction s40(2)> Pennaeth GMC Cymru - Head of GMC Wales  
Cyngor Meddygol Cyffredinol - General Medical Council

Post / Mail: GMC, Caspian Point, Bae Caerdydd, CF10 4DQ

Ebost / Email: <redaction s40(2)>

General Medical Council

We work with doctors, patients, and other stakeholders to support good, safe patient care across the UK. We set the standards doctors and those who train them need to meet, and help them achieve them. If there are concerns these standards may not be met or that public confidence in doctors may be at risk, we can investigate, and take action if needed.

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You are welcome to contact us in Welsh. We will respond in Welsh, without this causing additional delay.

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Cyngor Meddygol Cyffredinol

Rydym yn gweithio gyda meddygon, cleifion a rhanddeiliaid eraill i gynorthwyo gofal da a diogel i gleifion ar draws y DU. Rydym yn gosod y safonau y bydd angen i feddygon a'r rhai sy'n eu hyfforddi eu bodloni,

ac yn eu helpu i'w cyflawni. Os bydd pryderon efallai na fydd y safonau hyn yn cael eu cyflawni neu y gallai hyder y cyhoedd mewn meddygon fod mewn perygl, gallwn ymchwilio, a gweithredu os oes angen.

Efallai bod y neges e-bost hon yn cynnwys gwybodaeth freiniol neu gyfrinachol, y dylid ei defnyddio at y diben y'i hanfonwyd yn unig.

Os nad chi yw'r derbynnydd neu os ydych chi wedi cael yr e-bost hwn mewn camgymeriad, peidiwch â'i ddarllen, argraffu, ail-anfon, storio na gweithredu mewn ffordd sy'n dibynnu arni neu unrhyw atodiadau os gwelwch yn dda. Dylech anfon e-bost at yr anfonwr ac yna, ei ddileu ar unwaith.

Mae'r Cyngor Meddygol Cyffredinol yn elusen gofrestrdig yng Nghymru a Lloegr (1089278) ac yn Yr Alban (SC037750)

Mae croeso i chi gysylltu â ni yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ymateb yn Gymraeg, heb i hyn achosi oedi ychwanegol.