

GP registrar e-bulletin, November 2005

Welcome to the first GP registrar e-bulletin.

The GP registrars subcommittee is a subsection of the General Practitioners Committee (GPC) with a remit to look after the interests of doctors training for General Practice. Effectively, this means looking at pay and conditions, education and training, and your continuing professional development.

In a new initiative, we are publishing and distributing this brief bulletin by email and on our website four times a year - following meetings of the GP registrars subcommittee – with an aim to keep you updated on key issues. The subcommittee also publishes a newsletter twice a year, which is sent to GP trainers and VTS course organisers, to be forwarded on to GP registrars.

Please feel free to distribute this to colleagues.

Certification of GP registrars

The Postgraduate Medical Education and Training Board (PMETB) took over responsibility from the Joint Committee on Postgraduate Training for General Practice (JCPTGP) for GP certification on 30 September 2005.

New certification process

From now on, the Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP) and PMETB will be managing certification jointly. The newly established RCGP Certification Unit will be responsible for the Certificate of Completion of Training (CCT), which relates to the application that GP registrars will make under Article 10 or the 'prescribed experience'/Article 5 route of training. The PMETB will be responsible for the Statement of Eligibility for Registration (SER), which relates to the application doctors will make under Article 11 or the 'equivalent experience' route of training.

For more details and guidance on the CCT, visit these website addresses:

www.pmetb.org.uk/index.aspx?articleid=437 and www.rcgp.org.uk/certification/index.asp

For more details and guidance on the SER, visit this website address:

www.pmetb.org.uk/index.aspx?articleid=438

If you have any questions about your GP training, we would advise you to contact the RCGP's Certification Unit, telephone 020 7930 7228, or email certification@rcgp.org.uk.

The introduction of fees

A fee of £350 is now payable to the RCGP for both CCT and SER applicants and a further fee of either £250 (CCT) or £700 (SER) will be payable to the PMETB. The subcommittee made strong representations to the PMETB against the introduction of fees. However, this does bring general practice in line with other specialties as hospital colleagues have been paying fees for certification for a number of years. A further sharp increase in the PMETB fees is anticipated for April 2006 and both the GP registrars subcommittee and the GPC are currently campaigning against this. We have also made robust representation to the Doctors and Dentists review body (DDRb), who are the body with whom pay is negotiated, to ensure that any fees are taken into account when setting GP registrar remuneration for 2006-07.

Transitional arrangements

We are aware that a number of GP registrars are currently experiencing a delay in receiving certification from the PMETB during the transitional period. Without a CCT or SER (or their former equivalents), you cannot join a PCO's Performers List, which means you can't practise independently as a GP. As a result, these delays are a cause of great concern for both the BMA/GPC and the RCGP and this issue has been raised with the PMETB as a matter of urgency. The Subcommittee has produced a brief guidance note, which tries to clarify the situation and can be accessed online as follows: www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/Content/app4gpreg (BMA or 'guest user' login required).

We recommend you check both the RCGP and PMETB websites regularly for the most up to date information and to ensure that your application process runs as smoothly as possible.

Out of hours (OOH) training

The new GMS contract allows GPs to opt out of providing OOH services and, as a consequence, there has been some confusion about whether OOH training remains integral to the GPR year. You should be aware that:-

- OOH remains a core competency, and all GP registrars are required to complete a benchmark 12 OOH sessions over the GPR year
- Ultimately, it is your responsibility to ensure that you complete the required number of sessions. Your trainer should however be able to help you to organise them, and explain the arrangements in your area
- If you do experience difficulties organising your OOH training, or accessing OOH sessions, you should get in touch with your local deanery as early as possible so that there is plenty of time to resolve the problem

You can find comprehensive information on this topic in the COGPED position paper, which we strongly advise that you read: www.gpkss.ac.uk/who/deanery/zfr_policy.htm

BMJ Career Focus – special issue on GP training

The Career Focus section of the BMJ's 8th October issue is dedicated entirely to GP training, including articles from the perspective of both GP trainers and trainees. The special issue contains the most up to date information available, and provides an excellent overview for anyone considering training for general practice - not to mention plenty of useful hints and tips for those of you already in training.

Key topics covered in the special issue include:

- GP registrars talk about their training experiences
- GP trainers on the highs and lows of teaching registrars
- Information on recent reforms such as the new MRCGP and summative assessment process, plus practical advice on how to make sure your CCT application goes without a hitch

You can download your free copy from the BMJ website:

<http://careerfocus.bmjournals.com/content/vol331/issue7520/>

National conference for GPs to be - Queens Hotel, Leeds, 6-7 July 2006

Every year, the GP registrars subcommittee organises a two day conference to give you the information you need to make an informed choice about your future, and to effectively plan your GP training.

Highlights of next year's conference will include:-

- High profile speakers, including prominent GPs
- Practical workshops and Q&A sessions covering a wide range of topics, including:
 - Becoming a partner
 - Working as a sessional GP
 - The new GMS contract
 - Appraisals
- The chance to meet with newly qualified GPs, other GP registrars and Junior Doctors on the GP VTS

If you would like to receive a conference programme nearer to the time, please send your name and address to ayoung@bma.org.uk. Otherwise, keep an eye on the BMA website.

Further information

More detailed information about the GP registrars subcommittee and the issues found in this e-bulletin can be found at the GP registrars section of the BMA website. For guidance notes, policy documents, the model contract, back issues of our newsletters, a specimen handbook (and much more), visit: www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/Content/Hubgpregristrars (BMA or 'guest user' login required).

If, after viewing our website, you have any further queries about the issues raised in this e-bulletin, or about the role of the GP registrars subcommittee in general (perhaps you would like to stand for a regional seat...?), please contact Sally Al-Zaidy at sal-zaidy@bma.org.uk.