Are you ready for revalidation?
Paul Buckley
Purpose of revalidation

Revalidation is a set of procedures operated by the GMC to secure the evaluation of a medical practitioner’s fitness to practise as a condition of continuing to hold a **licence to practise**.
Adapted from the Medical Act 1983

To create public confidence that all licensed doctors are up to date and fit to practise.
GMC, March 2005
The licence to practise

• From Monday 16 November 2009, all UK practising doctors will need, by law, to be registered with a licence to practise.

• The licence will give the same legal privileges that are currently restricted to registered doctors.

• The principal currency of doctors’ GMC status will be the licence to practise.

• The licence is dependent on registration.

• The licence is the first step towards the introduction of revalidation.
## Understanding licensing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Registration <em>with</em> a licence</th>
<th>Registration <em>without</em> a licence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Legally able to practise</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subject to revalidation, when it is introduced</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Required to followed <em>Good Medical Practice</em></td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subject to GMC Fitness to Practise actions</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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</tbody>
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Developing the online Register

• The online Register will be updated on 16 November 2009.

• From this date it will distinguish between doctors who are:
  • Registered with a licence to practise; or
  • Registered without a licence to practise.

• Employers should check, as now, that doctors hold appropriate registration.

• The ESR system (in England and Wales) and SWISS (in Scotland) will also be updated on 16 November 2009.
How the online Register will show that a doctor is registered with a licence to practise (from 16 November 2009)
How the online Register will show that a doctor is registered *without* a licence to practise (from 16 November 2009)
Sharing information with ESR

• The ESR/GMC interface provides an overview of a doctor’s registration status as well as background registration information.

• The system sends alerts to designated Trust contacts when a doctor’s registration status changes.

• The interface will reflect licensing changes.
What will revalidation mean for doctors?

- The process by which doctors will regularly demonstrate to the GMC that they remain up to date and fit to practise

- Aims to give focus and energy to doctors’ desires to keep up to date and improve their practice

- Must be fair for all licensed doctors regardless of the scope, nature and setting of their practice
What will revalidation mean for employers?

- Embedding GMP framework into medical appraisal
- Training appraisers in strengthened appraisal
- Appointing/designating responsible whole practice appraisal
- Using MSF tools that meet GMC principles and criteria
- Ensuring all medical staff can participate in revalidation
- Ensuring information flows between organisations
What will revalidation mean for patients?

• Public awareness of the introduction of the Licence to Practise

• Public assurance that doctors are continually updating their knowledge and skills and continue to be fit and safe to practice

• Constructive feedback on the patient experience

• Consistent and formal approach to responding to complaints and concerns
Implementation: projects and pilots

- Range of projects and pilots to test components of revalidation across the UK
- Informing roll out of revalidation
- State of readiness of local systems to support revalidation
- Learning from pilots and projects disseminated through the UKRPB
Next steps...

- Implementation of strengthened appraisal introduced across the four countries

- Network of Responsible Officers to be put in place (Departments of Health)

- Conclusion and reporting of revalidation studies and projects across the UK

- GMC consultation on revalidation planned for early 2010
Implementation of revalidation

- Phased approach to implementation

- Relicensing should start where local appraisal and clinical governance systems are developed and fit for purpose

- Recertification should start where preparations by individual Royal Colleges are well advanced

- Further analysis on how best to translate the managed targeted approach into practice
For more information:

• Revalidation FAQ document

• www.gmc-uk.org/revalidation

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