

Advice Sheet

The Performers List

What is The Performers List?

The Performers List is maintained by NHS England in accordance with the National Health Service (Performers Lists) (England) Regulations 2013.

GPs may only provide NHS primary care services in England if they are

Registered with the GMC and hold a license to practise,

and

Are included in the NHS England Performers List and are allocated to a local area team (their designated body).

The Performers List provides reassurance for the public that GPs practising in the NHS are suitably qualified, have up to date training, have appropriate English language skills and have passed other relevant checks.

Do I need to be on a Performers List?

You must be on the Performers List if you are a provider of NHS Primary Care services.

The Performers List is a National List, with each performer being assigned to an NHS England area team which is known as their Designated Body

Where is my Designated Body?

The assigned area team will be the practitioners Designated Body, the Responsible Officer of the Designated Body will make a recommendation to the GMC regarding a doctor's revalidation.

If you are a partner or salaried GP your designated body is dependent on the location of the CCG of which your practice is a member.

In the case of locum doctors the Designated Body is the area team nearest the address held by the GMC for the doctor.

What does my designated body do?

The Area Team responsible officers (who are currently the Area Team medical directors) are accountable to their regional responsible officer for the providing

access to a medical appraisal system for all doctors on the Performers List, and also for other doctors with a prescribed connection to NHS England who are linked to the area team responsible officer, such as doctors employed in area teams and small number of others.

Participation in the annual appraisal system is a requirement for GPs on the Performers List; it enables NHS England to be confident that the doctors in their area are maintaining their skills whilst providing services in their area. If you work in both Scotland and England, you will need to be on Health Board List as well as the NHS England Performers List.

Who does not need to be on the Performers List?

Doctors who do not undertake NHS General Practice do not need to be included on the Performers List.

If a doctor works solely for the NHS or other organisation in a non clinical role (for example on the board of a CCG), the doctor should retain a license to practise if the employer requires it.

Once doctors have left the Performers List, their prescribed connection to a responsible officer may be changed. Depending on the role that you have moved to, your prescribed connection could change to be to the Area team RO, regional RO or the RO of your employing organisation or professional body.

Providing private medical services such as a sports club doctor or factory doctor not involving NHS GP services does not require inclusion on the Performers List.

If you have been a GP but now ONLY provide specialist services, such as endoscopy or substance misuse services, please contact us because it is possible that you do not have to be on the Performers List also, and your revalidation requirements may be arranged separately.

How much (or little) clinical work do I need to do to remain on a Performers List?

We await the Government's official answer to this question following a recent national consultation. We believe that demonstrating professional competence can be more important than demonstrating a minimum number of sessions per year in work. Whilst in theory you could retain the eligibility to stay on a Performers List by

undertaking one session of patient contact per year, this would be very hard to justify in terms of demonstrating professional competence. Whilst we await the Government's official position, we would advise all GPs to be mindful of the RCGP's recommendation and to consider 1 or 2 sessions per week as the amount of practice time needed. This level of commitment gives you the chance of meeting clinical scenarios on a regular enough basis to maintain sufficient competence. We recognise though that there can be exceptions to this and we are happy to discuss these on a case by case basis with individuals.

How do I leave a Performers List?

If a doctor no longer wishes or needs to be on the Performers List, it is a simple procedure to resign or retire from the List.

Resignation or retirement will not mean that a doctor cannot reapply and join again in the future.

If a doctor intends to withdraw from the Performers List they must notify NHS England, through the WYCSA ideally giving three months of the date from which the Practitioner intends to withdraw.

If a doctor leaves the Performers List but continue to hold a license to practice with the GMC they are still required to undergo revalidation.

There is extensive advice on the GMC website.

How do I (re) join a Performers List?

You apply to join the List via the web-based application Toolkit. It will guide you in identifying the appropriate Area Team for you.

A form is available on the toolkit to be completed and submitted on line or in the post, and it will ask for a range of personal and professional details as well as clinical references to be provided.

If you have not practised in the United Kingdom for more than 2 years, you may be asked to demonstrate a period of induction or supervision as part of starting work again. Some doctors may be asked to undertake a formal induction and refresher scheme.

When are doctors removed from a Performers List?

Removal is an entirely separate process to resignation or retirement from the List, it is a formal process and defined in the Regulations.

In some cases removal is mandatory such as when a doctor is suspended or has their license revoked.

You may be considered for removal from the List if you are

- found to be within breach of your terms of inclusion
- if you do not engage with the appraisal process
- if you do not provide the services of a GP for over a year,

If a doctor is removed from a List statutory notification of this is made to a number of bodies including the GMC.

If a doctor has been removed from a List for any reason they must declare this on any future applications that are made to join a Performers List.

What happens if I decide to work abroad?

If a doctor is out of the country for over 12 months they are unable to meet the requirements for inclusion on the Performers list as outlined above. We encourage doctors in this situation to consider resigning from the Performers List and re joining if they return to work in England.

If a doctor retains a license to practise whilst working abroad It is important that they understand GMC requirements relating to revalidation and we would urge all doctors considering a period of working abroad to access information from the GMC , there is a wealth of information on the website.

http://www.gmc-uk.org/doctors/revalidation/faq_revalidation.asp