Medical student professionalism

General Medical Council

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Revised guidance provides two documents, addressed to medical schools and to students



Public consultation (August – November 2015)



Professional behaviour and fitness to practise

- Guidance primarily for medical schools, and secondarily for their students
- Providing detailed guidance on processes for dealing with student professionalism and fitness to practise issues
- ✓ In line with test of fitness to practise for provisional registration and fitness to practise processes for registered doctors
- ✓ Similar style and format to Good Medical Practice

Name of Street,

Achieving good medical practise

- Guidance directly addressed to medical students
- ✓ Structured by the four domains of Good medical practice to familiarise students with core guidance for registered doctors
- ✓ Written in simple, accessible language and offering practical examples to students
- ✓ Giving advice on how to maintain professional behaviour on and off campus, including known areas of concern (e.g. social media, attendance)



How can I access the guidance?

Both guidance documents are available on the GMC website at

www.gmc-uk.org/studentftp

- If you would like to order a printed copy of the guidance, or a copy in another format or language, call us on 0161 923 6602 or email us at <u>publications@gmc-uk.org</u>
- Printed copies were sent to all medical schools to distribute to their students in March 2017; and sent again for first year medical schools in early 2018



Achieving good medical practice

Guidance for medical students



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Going above and beyond – taking on the challenge of professional excellence

•The guidance starts by stating that although it sets out standards for behaviour **true professionalism** is about **striving for excellence**.

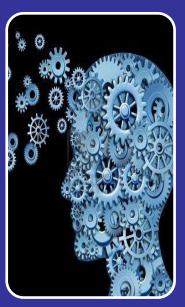


Being professional means you'll need to make time to reflect on your experiences, to learn continually and to apply your learning in practice. You will need to seek out feedback, remain up to date with professional and ethical guidance and be able to adapt to changing circumstances. Your teachers and trainers want you to develop and become an excellent doctor, so you should look to them for guidance and support.



Key content in *Achieving good medical practice:* guidance for medical students (1 of 4)

Practical advice on professional behaviour, aligned to *Good medical practice*



Domain 1: Knowledge, skills and performance

- Responding positively to the learning process
- Reflecting about your study and clinical work
- Working within the limits of your competence, including knowing when to ask for help
- Being professional on clinical placements
- Consent
- Recording your work



Practical advice/examples

- Engagement in educational activity
- Complying with University regulations etc.
- Responding constructively to feedback
- Professional behaviour on placement
 - Appearance
 - Punctuality
 - Supervision
 - Electives
 - Patient contact
 - Recording





Key content in *Achieving good medical practice: guidance for medical students* (2 of 4)

Practical advice on professional behaviour, aligned to *Good medical practice*



Domain 2: Safety and Quality

- Being open and honest if something goes wrong
- Raising concerns, including about your peers, colleagues or medical school staff
- The importance of telling your medical school about any health conditions and getting support
- The importance of having insight into your health and following medical advice



Practical advice/examples

- Moral/legal duty
- Types of concerns
- Processes for raising concerns
- Compliance with University OH services
- Requirement to get independent medical advice





Key content in *Achieving good medical practice:* guidance for medical students (3 of 4)

Practical advice on professional behaviour, aligned to *Good medical practice*



Domain 3: Communication, partnership and teamwork

- The importance of communicating effectively
- Treating colleagues with respect and teamwork
- Being polite to patients and respecting their dignity and privacy
- Maintaining confidentiality
- Handover of care
- Handling conscientious objections



Practical advice/examples

- Contributing to the work of the healthcare team
- Collaborative working in healthcare and university settings e.g. mentorship of students
- Constructive placement feedback
- Maintaining confidentiality re patients names and in public places
- Social media 'dos' and 'don'ts'
- Adjustments due to cultural or religious beliefs



Key content in *Achieving good medical practice:* guidance for medical students (4 of 4)

Practical advice on professional behaviour, aligned to *Good medical practice*



Domain 4: Maintaining trust

- Not pursuing relationships with patients
- Respecting patient's and colleagues' beliefs and lifestyle choices
- Not discriminating against anyone
- Acting with honesty
- Reporting things like convictions to their medical school
- Cooperating with SFTP processes



Practical advice/examples

- Acknowledging unconscious bias
- Plagiarism
- Honesty about experience and qualifications
- Declaration of any criminal cautions/legal proceedings/health concerns
- Behaviour outside medical school
 - Discriminatory comments in public/social media
 - Caution for drunken behaviour
 - Take responsibility for actions





Other useful resources for students in the guidance

Professionalism – key areas of concern

- Persistent inappropriate attitude or behaviour
- Failing to demonstrate good medical practise
- Drug or alcohol misuse
- Cheating or plagiarism
- Dishonesty or fraud
- Aggressive, violent or threatening behaviour
- Any conviction or caution
- Health concerns and insight or management of these concerns

Annex

 Gives students a brief overview of the FTP processes within medical schools.



- Highlights some factors FTP panels take into account including;
 - Patterns of behaviour
 - Insight
 - Mitigating and aggravating factors
 - Remediation
 - Year of study



Professional behaviour and fitness to practise

Guidance for medical schools and their students



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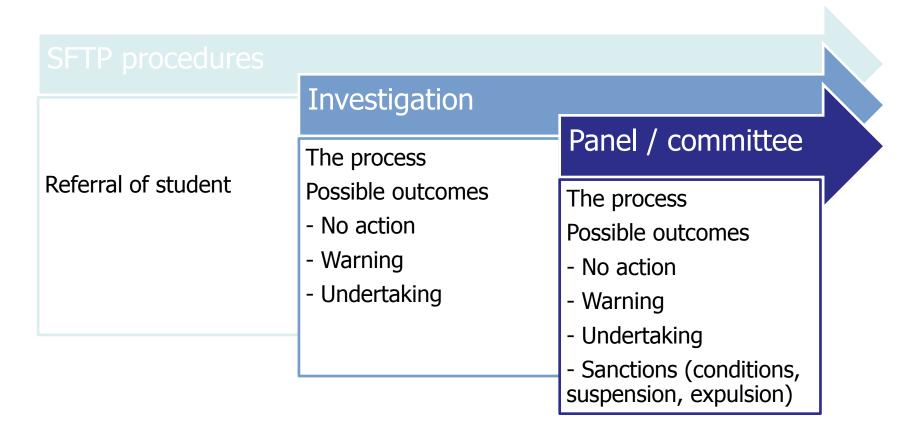
Key features of *Professional behaviour and fitness to practise*

- Aligned to GMC processes for provisional registration and FTP in registered doctors
- New section on pastoral care and support
- New section on low level concerns
- Expanded section on health concerns
 - Additional resources for health concerns



Student fitness to practise procedures

More detailed guidance given for all stages of the process (pages 45-68):

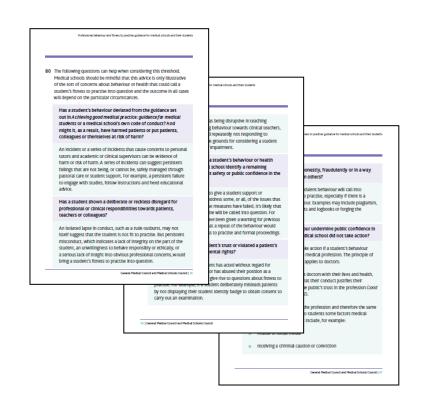




Practical tools in the guidance (1 of 4): Threshold of student fitness to practise

A series of questions to help you consider threshold (pages 35-38):

- Deviation from guidance?
- Disregard for responsibilities?
- Failure to improve?
- Abuse of patient's trust or rights?
- Dishonest, fraudulent or misleading behaviour?
- Undermines public confidence?
- Compromises patient safety?



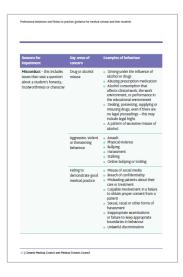


Practical tools in the guidance (2 of 4): Reasons for impairment

Table 1 in document (pages 41-45):

 We've organised a table according to the published reasons for impairment of fitness to practise, with relevant examples of behaviour (not exhaustive)





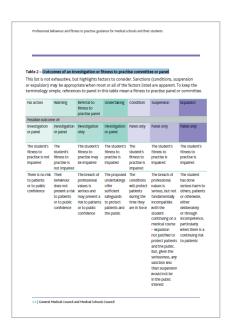


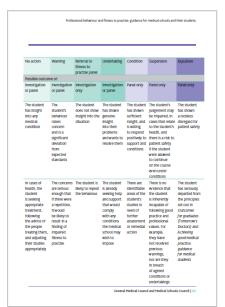


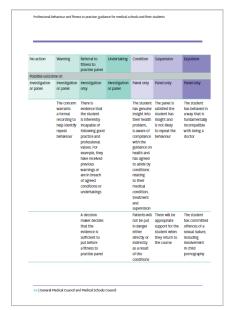
Practical tools in the guidance (2 of 4): Outcomes of an SFTP investigation or panel

Table 2 in document (pages 64-67):

 Factors to consider for possible outcomes of an investigation or panel, including taking no action.







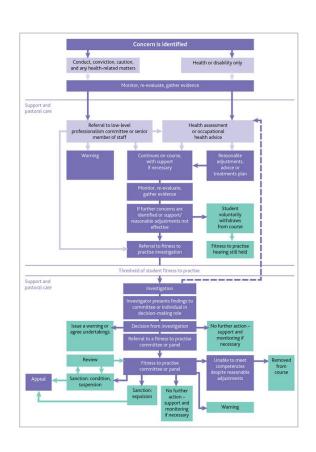




Practical tools in the guidance (4 of 4): *Flow diagram*

Appendix in document (page 78):

- An example illustration of the process for managing professionalism concerns and fitness to practise issues, intended as reference of main components
- Crucial to demonstrate process has been followed for any cases that are appealed





Additional resources

To support you with implementing the guidance

General Medical Council



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Guidance in action (1 of 6): Case studies

www.gmc-uk.org/studentftp

- Social media
- Personal health
- Serious misconduct
- Working in isolated environments
- Repeated low level concerns

General Medical Council

Case studies: medical students professionalism and fitness to practise

These case studies will help you see how Achieving good medical practice and Professional behaviour and fitness to practise can apply in real life scenarios.



Social media use (page 2)

Sarah and Mohammed are part of a WhatsApp group with other medical students. Find out what happens when they are reported for sharing stories about patients and staff on Farehook



Personal health (page 7)

Aaron is struggling with anxiety and depression due to his academic workload. Find out what happens when he continues to struggle but is reluctant to seek help.



Serious misconduct (page 11)

Stephanie is a year five medical student whose personal behaviour is called into question on a night out. Find out what happens when she tries to treat a friend in an emergency.



Working in isolated environments (page 15)

Ramesh is a year four medical student doing his first clinical placement in a rural area. Find out what issues he faces when working in an isolated environment.



Repeated low level concerns (page 19)

Yanmei is a first year student who is finding it difficult adapting to university life. Find out what happens when she continues to arrive late and misses a few assessment deadlines.

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The GMC is a charity registered in England and Wales (1089278) and Scotland (SC037750)



Guidance in action (2 of 6): Thought pieces

www.gmc-uk.org/studentftp

- Raising concerns
- Remediation
- Legal representation

Thought pieces

Read our thought pieces about areas of the guidance that generated a lot of discussion among medical schools and their students. We will continue to add more pieces as the conversation about the guidance evolves.

Raising concerns

Raising concerns about professionalism is an important principle based on our standards for medical education and training. Read more on the importance of having clear policies for raising and acting on concerns – considering the different scenarios where concerns might be raised.

Den the Raising concerns thought piece

Remediation

In the context of student fitness to practise, remediation is where a student or graduate addresses concerns about their conduct, behaviour or health. This piece focuses on the key principles behind remediation, how students can demonstrate it, and how schools can support them in the process. It is primarily addressed to medical schools.

Den the Remediation thought piece

Legal representation

Should medical students going through fitness to practise procedures seek legal representation? Should their schools encourage them to do so? This piece outlines some principles to help schools and students make the decision of where legal representation would be useful – and what they should take into consideration.

Open the Legal representation thought piece



Guidance in action (3 of 6): Myths & questions

www.gmc-uk.org/studentftp

- Common myths about student fitness to practise
- If I do anything wrong, the school will call a SFTP panel
- Common questions
- Does a student need to declare SFTP concerns to the GMC?

Myth busters3
Myth 1: If I tell my school about a health condition or concern I will be referred to student fitness to practise
Myth 2: I shouldn't tell my medical school about a health concern4
Myth 3: If I do anything wrong, the school will call a student fitness to practise panel $\dots\dots 5$
Myth 4: Students often get expelled through student fitness to practise procedures 6
Myth 5: If I do anything wrong, my school will tell the GMC and it'll affect my registration 7 $$
Myth 6: The GMC makes all decisions about student fitness to practise for medical students 8
Questions: Using the guidance9
How should medical students use the new guidance?9
What advice do you have for students who might not meet our published outcomes for graduates?
What should students do if a patient treats them in a derogatory or aggressive manner $?12$
What are GMC's views on students using cognitive-enhancing drugs for examination preparation and how is this reflected in the guidance?15
Questions: You and the GMC17
Does a student need to declare fitness to practise concerns to the GMC?17
If a student declares fitness to practise concerns to the GMC, what information is needed and what are the consequences of non-disclosure?18
Questions: Your fitness to practice19
What are the implications of fitness to practise findings for a student's future career?19
How does health relate to student fitness to practise?20
For medical schools
Can the GMC provide equality and diversity training to help medical schools implement the
fitness to practise guidance?22



Guidance in action (4 of 6): Examples of good practice

www.gmc-uk.org/studentftp

- Examples of approaches taken for implementing the SFTP guidance by different medical schools
 - Adapting processes
 - Low level concerns
 - Promoting professionalism
 - Collaboration

Good practice: examples submitted by medical educators

O Published 8 March 2018



We asked medical schools to tell us what steps they have taken towards implementing the guidance, any difficulties, and how they had communicated it to their students.

Through the schools' responses, we identified different approaches to areas we know are common in the management of student fitness to practise, and we asked submitting schools to elaborate on these. We wanted to present the examples developed as a result as an opportunity for shared learning for anyone involved in student fitness to practise.

We want to continue expanding the examples and we are happy to add further submissions. Please email us at quality@gmc-uk.org if you wanted to discuss a submission, or if you are interested in hearing more about any of the approaches described.

We're very grateful to the medical school staff that developed the examples presented here.

Please note: The practices listed are based on responses to the specific questions included in the 2016/17 Medical School Annual Returns. They are not meant to be exhaustive or point to a single solution to issues encountered by schools in the management of student fitness to practise.



Guidance in action (5 of 6): Professionalism video





Guidance in action (6 of 6): Teaching resources

www.gmc-uk.org/studentftp



g Be honest about your competence Informed consent. Be honest if things go wrong. Do not abuse your position Reflecti

Lesson 1: understand and accept your level of knowledge, skill and competence

Task 2: A medical student is on his first week of placement in A&E. He has just looked at an x-ray, and thinks he can see a transverse fracture of the left radius. He has not discussed his thoughts with his supervising consultant. Listen to the following conversation. Give 3 examples in this scenario of behaviour not demonstrating honesty and integrity.



matrial Treat all patients equally Explain treatments fully Do not copy the work of others. Do not forge a supervisor's nan





professional performance or has maintained their qualifications. As a result, Acquire knowledge and the receptionist calls in the local baker who once skills as a student (good went on a skydive in 1963 and thinks he can make a stab at it. Unfortunately he doesn't really attendance, responding to feedback, reflecting) remember it as well as he thought and doesn't pull the cord until too late. Maintain/improve as a professional. Apply knowledge and experience You fail to require that your instructor applies their knowledge and skills in a professional Work within their manner. Therefore, she turns up 2 hours late, by competence which time the pilot has left. She decides to fly Behave professionally eg the plane herself as although not qualified to do not late, professional so, she is friends with a pilot who has talked her through it before. It turns out she can take off. Gaining consent but not land the plane. Record work clearly legibly and You fail to require that your instructor makes a record of anything clearly. As such, although she Good continuity, good checks the weather report before you leave, she writes it down on a scrap of paper to take with from one professional to her. Shortly before jumping, she looks at it but it unsure whether she has written NW or NE for the wind speed. She guesses wrong and you are blown 50 miles off course, out to sea.

Consequence

You fail to require that your instructor is qualified

You do not require that your instructor is diligent in complying with safety systems. The instructor

cannot be bothered following all of the safety

Attribute

Develop and maintain

Contribute to and comply with

systems to protect the skydivers







Student professionalism competition

- For the last two years, we ran a student competition with the Medical Schools Council to explore why professionalism is important to medical students.
- On both years, we asked students to design a teaching session based on our guidance Achieving good medical practice.
 - 2016: any aspect of the guidance
 - 2017: why honesty and integrity are important qualities for future doctors
 - 2018 competition in planning stages
- We received 97 entries between the two years from students across the UK.
 - The students whose entries were shortlisted have kindly agreed to share their sessions as teaching resources.





A student perspective on Achieving Good Medical Practice: Why honesty and integrity are crucial in medicine.

Caitlin Stewart
First Year Medical Student
The University of Aberdeen







The Task



The Game

- Fun and engaging activity to fuel conversations about honesty and integrity
- Based on ideas from games: Cranium and Taboo
- Focus on interactions with patients, peers and professionals
- Scenario and activity cards
- Highlights roles of the GMC, patient centred approach and additional attributes (effective communication and teamwork)
- All relate to professional standards that medical students are expected to meet throughout their degree, which are in-line with Achieving Good Medical Practice





Resources

- Board
- Scenario and activity cards
- Dice
- 3 x counters (1x sharpener, 1 x rubber, 1 x paper-clip)
- Blindfold
- Maze map
- Stopwatch
- Paper and pen for each player







Aim of the game/ Take home messages

- 1. Acting with honesty and integrity is key to being a good medical student and a safe a trustworthy doctor (point 19 of Achieving Good Medical Practice)
- 2. As an aspiring doctor, you must have a higher standard of behaviour than other students throughout your degree to maintain the public's trust in the profession.
- During medical school, you may witness acts of dishonesty which will raise concerns about patient safety or an individual's fitness to practice. If a situation arises where you are in this position, seek advice from the medical school or guidance that is available from the GMC.

Number of players:

6 (3 groups of 2) or 9 (3 groups of 3)

Time: 20 minutes

Begin at **START** and roll dice. If the team successfully completes the challenge, keep the card and pass the dice to the next team.

Blue square = blue card (2 minutes to decide on 2 issues and 2 responses)

Yellow square = yellow card (facilitator must read out the activity unless a player has to be nominated)

Red square = miss a turn

Winner: first to graduation or most cards collected in 20 minutes

Unlawful discrimination - miss a turn	Activity	Professional Scenario	Failure to declare relevant misconduct - miss a turn	Activity
Patient Scenario				Peer Scenario
Activity	•		-	Breach of confidentiality - miss a turn
Challenging behaviour towards professionals - miss a turn		Professional Scenario		Activity
Peer Scenario	Activity	Mislead patients about their care -miss a turn	START	Patient Scenario







Patient Scenario

You have 2 minutes to work as a team and decide on 2 issues and 2 responses to the below scenario:

It is your first time cannulating a patient and the patient asks why you look nervous.

Patient Scenario

You have 2 minutes to work as a team and decide on 2 issues and 2 responses to the below scenario:

You perform a respiratory exam on a patient for the first time and find an abnormality. The patient has asked you what you have found.

Patient Scenario

You have 2 minutes to work as a team and decide on 2 issues and 2 responses to the below scenario:

A patient asks you for their blood test results, which you have seen, and the doctor has been held up with another patient.







Peer Scenario

You have 2 minutes to work as a team and decide on 2 issues and 2 responses to the below scenario:

You overhear your peer telling the nurse that she has sutured on placement previously. You know that you have not learnt this skill yet at university.

Peer Scenario

You have 2 minutes to work as a team and decide on 2 issues and 2 responses to the below scenario:

You see your peer forging your supervisor's name on placement. They have asked you not to tell anyone.

Peer Scenario

You have 2 minutes to work as a team and decide on 2 issues and 2 responses to the below scenario:

You are on placement and see your peer in a cupboard putting drugs in their bag. They have asked you to not tell anyone.







Professional Scenario

You have 2 minutes to work as a team and decide on 2 issues and 2 responses to the below scenario:

You observe a nurse unfairly discriminate against a patient because of their lifestyle choices.

Professional Scenario

You have 2 minutes to work as a team and decide on 2 issues and 2 responses to the below scenario:

On placement, you observe a consultant speaking condescendingly to a nurse.

Professional Scenario

You have 2 minutes to work as a team and decide on 2 issues and 2 responses to the below scenario:

Your supervisor has asked you to carry out a task that you have learnt in a skills session however you do not feel confident in carrying this out.







You have 30 seconds for this activity.

Select the correct answer to the question below to win the card.

Q: The majority of enquiries relating to a doctor's fitness to practice is made by?

- 1. Persons acting in public capacity (e.g employers)
- 2. Members of the public
- 3. Other sources (e.g individual doctors)

You have 30 seconds for this activity.

Each team member must write 4 roles of the GMC on separate sheets of paper without conferring. If two answers match, then you win the card.

You have 30 seconds for this activity.

Each team member must write 3 domains of good medical practice on separate sheets of paper without conferring. If one answer matches then you win the card.







You have 1 minute for this activity.

Describe the duty of candour to win the card.

You have 1 minute for this activity.

Each team member must write 4 ways that medical students can maintain the publics trust in the medical profession on separate sheets of paper without conferring. If one answer matches then you win the card.

You have 1 minute for this activity. Nominate one player to take on the challenge who will read the challenge quietly.

The aim is to get your partner to say the word HONESTY *without* saying the words: honest, truthful and lie. You may use scenario examples. If you succeed, you win the card.



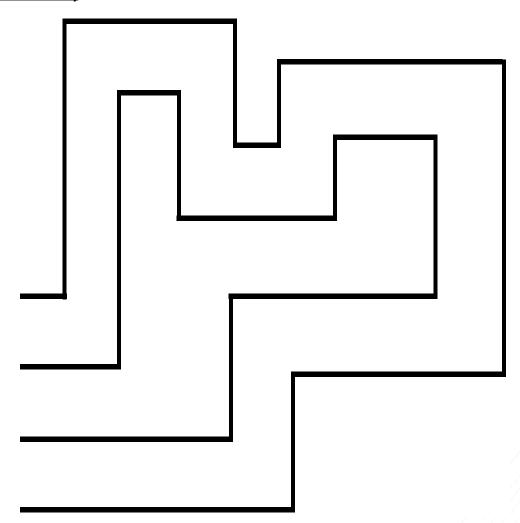




Communication activity

You have 2 minutes for this communication activity. Nominate one player to be blindfolded.

The aim is to communicate effectively to get your peer to draw from the start to the end of the maze. If they cross a border, you lose the card.





Education

Standards

Facilitator tools

Achieving good medical practice: guidance for medical

<u>students</u>

Good medical practice

Fitness to practice annual statistics report 2015

GMC: Ethical Guidance

GMC: About

Professional behaviour and fitness to practise: guidance for medical students



To Conclude

- Scenarios fuel discussion on:
 - GMC guidance
 - honesty and integrity
 - patient centered approach
 - Raising concerns on fitness to practice
- Activities provide extra links to:
 - Professionalism outside the academic environment
 - Professional attributes (maintaining trust, effective communication, teamworking)

I would recommend this game for students in early years of medical school starting placements.

Thank you

Further information:

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