

## **JOINT STATEMENT FROM PMETB, AOMRC, GMC, COPMED AND NHS EMPLOYERS IN RELATION TO THE ROLE AND RECOGNITION OF SUPERVISORS OF POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

Educational and clinical supervisors of doctors in training are a vital and essential part of the success of postgraduate medical education and training. These experienced doctors, providing appropriate supervision, support and feedback to trainees, help ensure the best possible standard of care for patients, now and in the future.

We wish to re-affirm our ongoing support and recognition for every doctor undertaking this work. In the primary care sector GP trainers have had the benefit of time and training for the role, and national and local recognition. A continuing concern which has become more explicit and urgent in recent years has been the lack of formal recognition of the role of supervisors/ trainers in secondary care. In order to address these concerns the first set of standards for trainers applicable across all specialties were agreed by PMETB in September 2007. Definitions of the roles for clinical supervisors and educational supervisors were also agreed and these include the need for appropriate selection and training for these roles.

The implementation of these standards is a welcome and necessary initiative. However we wish to reassure all trainers that their pre-existing roles, training and activities remain valued and recognised by our organisations. The standards and related activities are intended not only to ensure that all trainers achieve a minimum standard but also to help them exceed those standards and strive for excellence.

We recognise fully that resources are essential to achieve this. In order to quantify the challenge we need all trainers to support these standards and identify where any shortfall in resources (including time) is limiting their ability to meet them, so that these issues can then be addressed by local education and training commissioners and providers. All our organisations will continue to work together to ensure that appropriate recognition and resources are embedded throughout the health services of the UK.

Please be assured that we recognise and value the ongoing commitment of all trainers to patients, trainees, the health services and the medical profession. We also need the support of all trainers in our ongoing work towards ensuring that their commitment has the appropriate support, resources and recognition.

**17 November 2009**