

*Draft: 24 April 2008*

## **Terms of reference for GMC/Academy of Medical Royal Colleges Group**

### **Introduction**

1. The GMC and the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges have agreed to establish a joint group to advise, co-ordinate and facilitate communication on implementation issues associated with the White Paper.

#### *The purpose of recertification*

2. The purpose of recertification is to demonstrate that doctors on the GP Register and the Specialist Register continue to meet the particular standards that apply to their medical specialty or area of practice.

#### *Mechanisms for joint working*

3. The White Paper, *Trust Assurance and Safety: the Regulation of Health Professionals in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, sets out different but complementary roles for the GMC, the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges and the Medical Royal Colleges and Faculties in relation to revalidation.

4. In terms of standards for recertification the White Paper states:

“a. Standards will be drawn up for each area of specialist recertification by the appropriate Medical Royal Colleges and Specialist Associations.

b. These standards will be tested against the needs of patients and healthcare providers and based on wide consultation with all relevant stakeholders.

c. The standards will be agreed with the GMC to ensure that they are sufficient to meet the requirements for remaining on the appropriate part of the medical register.”

5. The White Paper envisages that the process of recertification will be carried out by the relevant Medical Royal College. It states that:

- “a. Renewal will be based upon a comprehensive assessment against the standards drawn up by that college.
- b. Recertification will be contingent upon the positive statement of assurance by that college to the GMC.
- c. The GMC would need to be satisfied that these processes were sufficient to provide assurance of the integrity of the register.”

6. The Academy of Medical Royal Colleges will lead the work on standard setting for recertification.

7. The Academy of Medical Royal Colleges, the Royal Colleges, Faculties and Specialist Associations will have an important role to play in setting standards and in designing and delivering the processes and evidence by which doctors will be assessed against those standards. Because of its responsibility for the integrity of the register, the GMC will also have a central role in agreeing the standards and the processes of assessment.

### **Purpose of the GMC and Academy of Medical Royal Colleges Group**

8. The purpose of the GMC and Academy of Medical Royal Colleges (AoMRC) Group is to:

- a. Promote a co-ordinated approach to the development of recertification, including the relationship with relicensing, which takes into account the different needs of the specialties.
- b. Facilitate communication with the Medical Royal Colleges and Faculties and make recommendations to the GMC and the AoMRC in the development of recertification.

### **Membership**

9. Six members of the AoMRC (to include the Chairman).

10. Five members of the GMC (to include the President).

### **Chairmanship**

11. To reflect the focus on co-ordination and partnership, the group will be chaired by the Chairman of the AoMRC and the President of the GMC.

12. The first meeting will be chaired by the President of the GMC. The second meeting will be chaired by the Chairman of the AoMRC. After this, meetings will be chaired alternately by the Chairman or President of each organisation.

13. The secretariat support to the Chairs and the Group will be provided by the GMC.

## **Frequency of Meetings**

14. Meetings will be held four to five times per year until revalidation is implemented successfully or until the Group is disbanded by decision of its members.

## **Timetable**

15. The Group will consider and report on its development timetable at its first meeting.

## **Terms of Reference**

16. To make recommendations on the relationship between recertification and relicensing.

17. To define and make recommendations on the roles of the GMC, the AoMRC, the Medical Royal Colleges and Specialist Associations in the oversight of recertification, including the relationship with relicensing.

18. To facilitate the skills and expertise of the Medical Royal Colleges and Faculties in developing appropriate processes for recertification.

19. To make recommendations on the development of standards of performance and the range of competencies and evidence to be demonstrated for recertification.

20. To make recommendations on the development of assessment tools and methods for recertification including the role of multi-source feedback.

21. To make recommendations on the development of appropriate standards of performance and the range of competencies and evidence to be demonstrated for relicensing for doctors who are not in training and are not on the Specialist Register.

22. To make recommendations on any other matter necessary to the proper co-ordination of the development of medical revalidation between the GMC, the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges, the Medical Royal Colleges and Specialist Associations and any other relevant bodies.

## **Reporting**

23. The group will report to and make recommendations on the development of components of recertification to the GMC, the AoMRC, and, as required, to the devolved administrations. It will also communicate with other relevant groups as required.