

## Medical Performers List Refresher route

### Introduction

GPs who wish to perform NHS primary medical services under a General Medical Services ('GMS'), Personal Medical Services ('PMS') or Alternative Personal Medical Services ('APMS') contract in England must be included on the NHS Medical Performers List (England). The statutory requirement for this is set out in the NHS Performers Lists (England) Regulations 2013, amended 2015.

NHS England has statutory responsibility for ensuring the suitability of those applying to join the Medical Performers List ('the List') and for ensuring that those included on the List remain suitable to perform services. NHS England has delegated the responsibility for the management of the List to the medical directors in local teams. The governance arrangements to support the management of the List is set out in NHS England's Framework for Managing Performer Concerns, last updated in May 2018.

GPs who are included on the List must be able to provide evidence of continuing to work in an NHS primary medical care setting in the preceding twelve months in order for them to remain eligible for continued inclusion on the List. If a GP is unable to evidence this, NHS England may remove the GP from the List under Regulation 14(5). A GP may reapply to join the List at a later stage if they wish to return to working in a primary medical care setting. The List is a matter of public record and is used by members of the public and prospective employers to assure themselves that the GP is fit for purpose.

NHS England outsourced the management of the List to Primary Care Support England ('PCSE') in 2015 and unfortunately, this resulted in processing delays and in some cases, the integrity of the List has been called into question. PCSE On Line went live on 2 December 2019 and this system has provided performers with the ability to make their application to join the List on line. The 'transformed' administration of the List is expected to bring efficiencies in the processing of applications to join the List and in maintaining the integrity of it.

### Induction and Refresher Scheme

The Induction and Refresher (I&R) Scheme is in place across England for GPs returning to general practice who have not provided NHS primary medical services in the preceding twenty-four months. These GPs are not included in the English Medical Performers List and the process is managed by the Cheshire and Merseyside Team.

The remainder of this paper sets out a different proposal to assist NHS England Medical Directors with access to the existing I&R tools to support GPs who for whatever reason have remained on the List but who have not worked in an NHS primary medical care setting in the preceding twenty-four months and the GP and the Medical Director have agreed that the GP needs to access the I&R tools to enable them to return safely back to NHS primary medical services.



## Proposal to introduce the Medical Performers List (MPL) Refresher Route

### Eligibility

To be eligible to register for the **MPL Refresher Route**, GPs must meet the following requirements:

1. The GP must already be included on the England Medical Performers List without any conditions (NHS England or GMC) and without any known unresolved performance issues. If the GP is known to have solely health related conditions, this would not preclude them from registering for the scheme.
2. The GP must not have performed NHS primary medical services under a GMS, PMS, APMS contract in the preceding twenty-four months or more and this must be evidenced within the GP appraisal documentation.
3. The GP and the Medical Director (or member of staff acting on behalf of the Medical Director) must have discussed and agreed that access to the I&R tools would support the safe return of the GP to primary medical care.

### Access

GPs that meet these criteria and who have been approved to access the scheme will be provided with access to the following support under the MPL Refresher Route:

1. Free access to online refresher training materials and support tools
2. Up to four fully funded attempts at the MCQ and Simulated Surgery assessments
3. Fully funded supervision at a designated HEE training practice for up to six months
4. A monthly bursary of up to £3500 per month for the duration of their supervised placement

### Application process

To access the MPL Refresher Route, the GP's Medical Director (or delegated officer) should first contact NHS England's GP Recruitment Programme and Policy Manager at NHS England via [england.gpreturner@nhs.net](mailto:england.gpreturner@nhs.net) and provide the following information about the GP:

1. Name
2. Address
3. Email address
4. GMC registration number
5. Confirmation that the GP meets the criteria set
6. Date that the GP last practised
7. A summary of why the GP has not practised for twenty-four months or more
8. Confirmation that the GP has provided approval for the information above to be shared with Health Education England

This information will be reviewed to confirm eligibility for the MPL Refresher Route and if approved by the NHS England GP Recruitment Team, then shared with HEE's GP National Recruitment Office (GPNRO).

The GPNRO will then send the GP (copying in the Medical Director) an application form to join the I&R Scheme. This should be completed by the GP and returned to the GPNRO who will then follow the standard I&R Scheme processes for the GP.

### **Management of the GP whilst undertaking the MPL Refresher Route.**

The GP's Medical Director will be responsible for managing the processes associated with doctors who engage in the MPL Refresher Route. The Medical Director will receive confirmation of the doctor's progress under the scheme through to successful sign off from the scheme. The Medical Director will need to take account of the Framework for Managing Performer Concerns and the associated governance arrangements to ensure that in the event that a GP fails to pass the MCQ or simulated surgery, or any other adverse event occurs during the placement that appropriate action is taken in accordance with the Performer List Regulations. The Medical Director must be cognisant that the List is a matter of public record and that members of the public and prospective employers search the List to provide them with assurance that the doctor is suitable to work independently and provide the full range of primary medical services without any restriction.

### **Approval**

The Professional Standards Delivery Group approved the introduction of the MPL Refresher route on 23 January 2020.

The new scheme will be effective from 1 February 2020 and will only be applicable to applications made on or after this date.

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