



Postgraduate Medical Education
and Training Board

General
Medical
Council

Regulating doctors
Ensuring good medical practice

The merger of PMETB with the GMC: A guide for doctors

August 2009



Introduction

In February 2008, the Government announced that PMETB would be merging with the GMC, following a recommendation from Sir John Tooke's inquiry into 'Modernising Medical Careers'.

This leaflet sets out the most frequently asked questions that we have received from doctors and trainee doctors in relation to the merger of PMETB with the GMC. The merger is due to be completed no later than April 2010. Doctors and trainee doctors should be reassured that:

- the way that they are assessed for a CCT or a CESR/CEGPR; and
- the Standards and Requirements which underpin the quality assurance of postgraduate medical education and training will not be substantively changed as a consequence of the merger, in order to make the transition as seamless and straightforward as possible.

Looking further ahead, the GMC and PMETB have commissioned a review, led by Lord Naren Patel, on the medium and long term shape of the regulation of all stages of medical education and training.

Further information

The PMETB and GMC websites are regularly updated with news and information about the merger:

- www.gmc-uk.org/education/postgraduate/pmetb_merger.asp
- www.pmetb.org.uk/merger

Merger: General

Q: *How will the merger of PMETB with the GMC be funded?*

A: The Department of Health (England) has agreed to meet the costs associated with the merger to achieve the benefits set out in Sir John Tooke's "Aspiring to Excellence" report. Fees collected from doctors and trainee doctors will not be used to fund the merger.

Certification

Q: Will equivalent certification routes still be offered by the GMC after the merger has taken place?

A: Yes. The new legislation that transfers PMETB's regulatory responsibilities to the GMC includes provision for all of the certificates that PMETB currently issues, including:

- Award of a Certificate of Completion of Training (CCT);
- Applications for inclusion on the General Practitioner or Specialist Register; and
- Certificate of Eligibility for Specialist Registration (CESR) and Certificate of Eligibility for General Practice Registration (CEGPR)
- Certificates of acquired rights.

Q: I have applied – or will be applying – to PMETB for a certificate. What will happen to my application if it is not processed before the merger takes place?

A: All applications which are received by PMETB, but are not dealt with until after the merger, will be evaluated by the GMC against the same standards that PMETB uses.

Q: I am due to apply for a CESR/CEGPR after April 2010. Where should I send my application documentation?

A. CCT, CESR and CEGPR certificates will be processed at the GMC's offices in Euston Road, London. We will inform people of the details of when to stop sending documentation to PMETB and where to send it to at the GMC via our website and through direct communication with relevant stakeholder bodies.

Certification

Q: What will happen to the certification fees?

A: The current PMETB fee structure will be retained up until the point of merger. The GMC has also agreed to fix the 2010/2011 fees at 2009/2010 rates as per the table below.

The levied fees will only be used to pay for operational costs. They will not be used to fund the merger.

Description	Fee payable: 2009/11 £
CCT	805
CESR/CEGPR (Articles 11 & 14)	1,905
Certificate of GP acquired rights (Article 12)	275
EU Directive certificates for trainees' use in another European Member State (Article 19)	165
Review/reapplication fee (CESR/CEGPR)	645

Quality

Q: Will the Quality Framework and the associated Quality Assurance activities continue after the merger?

A: Yes. The Standards and Requirements which underpin the Quality Framework and all Quality Assurance (QA) activities in general will still apply after the merger. PMETB and the GMC are working together closely to ensure that QA responsibilities are transferred smoothly and efficiently.

Q: Will I still be required to complete the National Survey of Trainee Doctors?

A: Yes. Preparation for the 2010 trainees survey will begin in 2009 and data gathering will take place in early 2010. The data is collected by a secure externally hosted application which will not be affected by the move of PMETB staff and assets to the GMC. Therefore a normal service will be maintained throughout the period of merger.

Q: Under PMETB's Quality Framework, concerns about the quality of postgraduate medical education and training can be raised at any level. If I currently have a concern as a trainee, what should I do?

A: Simply send an email to PMETB's Director of Quality, Patricia LeRolland at: patricia.lerolland@pmetb.org.uk, setting out the nature of your concern, the institution(s) involved, the steps that you have already taken to resolve your concerns with the institution(s) involved and the evidence/information upon which your concern is based. The Quality team will then assess the concern following the process set out in Section 5 of the Quality Framework Operational Guide (www.pmetb.org.uk/qfог).

Quality

Q: *What should I do if I need to report a concern in the period immediately before the merger is due to take place?*

A: PMETB correspondence details will be transferred across to the GMC systems. This is expected to take place before the merger to give our stakeholders time to update their records appropriately. As soon as these contact details are available, we will post all new contact information on the PMETB website and advise Royal Colleges, Faculties and doctor representative bodies.

Q: *As part of PMETB's visits to deaneries programme, you talk to trainees to gather information. Will the visits to deaneries programme continue?*

A: Yes. The visits that we have scheduled – up until November 2010 – will continue as originally planned.

PMETB and the GMC are currently discussing a suitable 'single regulator' approach to visits to deaneries to cover both the Foundation Programme and specialty training; we intend to pilot these in the visits planned for the West Scotland, South East Scotland and Defence deaneries in 2010.

Q: *PMETB currently approves curricula, assessment systems, programmes, posts and GP trainers against its Standards and Requirements. Will PMETB's Standards and Requirements documents still apply immediately after the merger?*

A: Yes. The new legislation that transfers PMETB's regulatory responsibilities to the GMC states that PMETB's Standards and Requirements will still be applicable on and after the merger as if they were established by the GMC. The approval previously given by PMETB to curricula, assessment systems, programmes, posts and GP trainers will carry across to the GMC and therefore remain valid and relevant.

Office of the Directorate of Appeals

The Office of the Directorate of Appeals adjudicates on appeals on behalf of PMETB. It is statutorily independent from PMETB and acts as a link between the Director of Appeals, the appeals panel, and the parties to the appeal, providing impartial day-to-day support to all parties.

Q: *What will happen to an appeal if it is not reviewed before the merger takes place?*

A: Any appeals which are received by the Office of Appeals, but are not considered until after the merger, will be evaluated by a GMC appeals panel against the same standards that PMETB uses.

Q: *What will happen to appeals fees?*

A: Up until the point of merger, the current appeals fee structure will be retained. The GMC has decided to maintain fees for 2010/11 at the existing (2009/10) levels.

Description	Fee payable: 2009/11 £
Written appeal	1,500
Oral appeal	2,205



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