

NHS WALES SHARED SERVICES PARTNERSHIP- PRIMARY CARE SERVICES

INQUIRY INTO AN ALL WALES MEDICAL PERFORMERS LIST



GIG
CYMRU
NHS
WALES

Partneriaeth
Cydwasaethau
Gwasanaethau Gofal Sylfaenol
Shared Services
Partnership
Primary Care Services

1. PURPOSE

Following an invitation to provide evidence to the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee regarding the formation of an all Wales Medical Performers List, the NHS Shared Services Partnership-Primary Care Services (NWSSP-PCS) submits the following response to the areas of concern raised under the head 'Terms of Reference.

2. AREAS OF CONCERN

2.1 THE EXISTENCE OF SEPARATE MEDICAL PERFORMERS LISTS FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

On 27th November 2017 the WG issued a consultation document identifying a number of options for simplifying the process for performers already included in a Performers List of a Primary Care Organisation (PCO) applying to practise in Wales (Annexes A & B refer). The closing date for the consultation is 8th February 2018.

Of the options detailed within the consultation document, the NWSSP-PCS consider Option 7 to be the most appropriate way forward as it will give Health Boards the assurances they need with regard to the suitability of those performers working in their areas whilst maintaining a streamlined administrative process which is not overly burdensome on the applicant.

2.2 EASE OF ACCESS TO MEDICAL PERFORMERS LIST REGISTRATION FOR DOCTORS RETURNING TO WALES

There are different processes for dealing with applications from performers wishing to practice in Wales, dependent upon whether they are already included in the Medical Performers List of a Primary Care Organisation in the UK or if they are new or returning to general practice in the UK following an extended absence of 2 years or more.

- 2.2.1 Doctors included in the List of a Primary Care Organisation applying for inclusion in Wales.

If a performer is registered with another PCO in the UK and wishes to apply for inclusion in the List of a Health Board in Wales the applicant will be asked to complete a short application form, produce an original enhanced criminal record certificate (less than 3 years old) and provide evidence of appropriate medical indemnity. The performer will also be asked to give

consent for the NWSSP to undertake further checks with their host PCO (ie confirmation that satisfactory clinical references have been provided, details of the applicant's medical qualifications and professional experience). Upon receipt of this documentation and consent from the applicant s/he will be granted provisional inclusion in the List of the appropriate Welsh Health Board for a period of 3 months whilst further checks are undertaken. This streamlined process (which was introduced in Wales in March 2016) allows for the processing of complete applications within 5 working days.

2.2.2 Doctors returning to Wales following an absence of 2 years or more.

Doctors returning to Wales after a period of absence from the UK of 2 years or more, or doctors who have not worked within the NHS GP practice setting for more than 2 years may be asked to undergo refresher training. In such instances, a copy of the applicants C.V. will be sent to the Director of Postgraduate Education for General Practice who will give a clinical opinion as to the necessity for refresher training.

If the Director of Postgraduate Studies considers a period of refresher training to be appropriate the doctor will be signposted to the 'Induction and Refresher Scheme', which is run by the GP National Recruitment Office (based in Edgbaston, Birmingham) for England and Wales. An assessment will be undertaken, the results of which will determine the duration of the required training. Placements in general practice can last between 3 – 6 months. At this stage the performer will be asked to complete a full application form and all necessary checks will have to be successfully completed before inclusion in the Medical Performers List can be considered. Where induction or refresher training is required the performer will be conditionally included in the Medical Performers List (ie. the condition being that their practise is restricted to the GP training practice with which they have been placed and that they will successfully complete the GP Returner Scheme). If the performer successfully completes the course the conditions will be lifted and the doctor will be able to provide unrestricted services but if the performer is not successful, the Health Board can take steps to remove the doctor from its' Performers List.

Further information in respect of the GP Induction & Refresher Scheme can be found at:

<https://gprecruitment.hee.nhs.uk/Induction-Refresher>

For information please see the number of 'Returner' applications received by Health Boards in Wales during 2016 and 2017:

Number of GP Returners Applied to Medical Performers List

Health Board	2016	2017
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ABMU HB	1	0
Aneurin Bevan UHB	1	1*
Betsi Cadwaladr UHB	0	0
Cardiff and Vale UHB	0	2
Cwm Taf UHB	0	0
Hywel Dda UHB	1	0
Powys TLHB	0	1
Total	3	4

* GP withdrew application as failed I&R Induction Assessment

3 HOW THE MEDICAL PERFORMERS LIST REGISTRATION PROCESS ASSESSES THE EQUIVALENCE OF MEDICAL TRAINING UNDERTAKEN OUTSIDE THE UK.

The National Health Service (Performers Lists) (Wales) Regulations 2004, as amended, lists the required criteria for entry to a Medical Performers List in Wales. Numerous checks are undertaken, one of which is a requirement to ensure that the applicant is registered in the GP Register of the General Medical Council (GMC). Doctors are entitled to have their name included in the GMC's GP Register if, in addition to being a registered medical practitioner, they:

- Hold a Certificate of Completion of Training (CCT) in general practice
- Are a national of a relevant European State, or have the EC rights and hold qualifications in general practice (as listed in the Directive on Recognition of Professional Qualifications)
- Have an acquired right to practise as a general practitioner in the UK
- Fall within such other categories provided for in the GMC (Applications for General Practice and Specialist Registrations) Regulations 2010.

When a doctor applies to join a Performers List in Wales the NWSSP (on behalf of the relevant Health Board) is required to check the GMC's List of Registered Medical Practitioners to ensure that the doctor is on the GP Register and is therefore, eligible to practise in the UK.

Overseas doctors that have never practiced in the UK before may be required to undergo 'Induction' training. Please refer to the process outlined in point 2.2.2 above for further information on how to access the 'Induction and Refresher' programme. As with the 'Returner' Scheme, any doctor accepted onto an induction programme will be conditionally included in a Medical Performers List (subject to all other checks being satisfactory and a suitable placement being found with a training practice) until the successful completion of the course. The relevant Health Board will then consider fully including the doctor (ie without restriction) in its List.

4. CONCLUSION

The Committee is asked to note the content of this report.

5. ANNEXES



Letter - Claire
Cullen to LHBs, SSP



Annex B - PCS
Response.pdf