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GMC COMMISSIONS SPECIALTY SPECIFIC RESEARCH

Further work on ensuring that there are clear, demonstrable, and broadly consistent standards for each speciality is to be undertaken by the GMC and the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges (AMRC).

The General Medical Council have commissioned the AMRC to undertake a review to ensure that appropriate standards that meet the above requirements are in place for each speciality.

The project will review all the published guidance; examine any inconsistencies and also identify any best practice. They will consider whether there should be an agreed format and approach to the guidance issued by the Royal Colleges which doctors will use in compiling their folders of evidence for appraisal, revalidation and other purposes.

A further aspect to the project will involve considering the potential for identifying key indicators of actual serious impairment for each speciality, so that prompt action can be taken locally to prevent harm to patients. This is part of a wider move towards a more risk-based approach to regulation on the part of the GMC, and is line with broader thinking in the recent Hampton review reports about how to maximise the effectiveness of regulation.

Finlay Scott, Chief Executive of the GMC, said, "We plan, jointly with the Academy, to feed back the results of this research to each Royal College, highlighting examples of good practice and identifying areas where further development work could be undertaken."

Professor Sir Alan Craft, Chairman of the AMRC, said, "The AMRC is very pleased to be working with the GMC to help set these standards."