

Changes to conditions, undertakings and glossary - with effect from 1 April 2019

What is changing?

We are making improvements to some of the standard wording we use in our conditions, undertakings and glossary of terms.

When do the changes take effect?

The new conditions, undertakings and glossary will be applied in all new and review cases being considered by the General Medical Council (GMC) or Medical Practitioners Tribunal Service (MPTS) from 1 April 2019. This includes hearings which start before April but reach the sanction stage (stage three) on or after 1 April 2019.

Who is affected?

Doctors involved in the following processes will be affected:

- Interim Orders Tribunal (IOT) new and review hearings,
- Medical Practitioners Tribunal (MPT) new and review hearings,
- Reviews on Papers (ROPs),
- New and review undertakings cases.

Review hearings (IOT & MPT)

This applies to any hearing starting or in progress on or after 1 April 2019. If the tribunal considers that a further order of conditions is necessary, then it is likely to update your conditions to reflect the changes. The new version of the glossary will then apply to those conditions.

Reviews on Papers (ROPs)

This applies to any ROPs taking place on or after 1 April 2019. If the chairperson or tribunal considers that a further order of conditions is necessary, then they are likely to update your conditions to reflect the changes. The new version of the glossary will then apply to those conditions.

Undertaking reviews

This applies to undertakings being reviewed for any reason and re-issued on or after 1 April 2019. Your undertakings are likely to be updated to reflect the changes. The new version of the glossary will then apply to those undertakings.

New conditions or undertakings

From 1 April 2019 onwards, all new conditions and undertakings will be formulated based on the new versions. The new version of the glossary will apply to all new conditions and undertakings. This applies to any hearing starting or in progress on or after 1 April 2019. It applies to any undertakings issued on or after 1 April 2019.

What has changed?

Some of the wording has changed across the banks to:

- clarify roles and responsibilities,
- make it easier for the restrictions to be understood,
- make it easier to identify areas of compliance or non-compliance with the restrictions.

For example:

- 'Approved' to 'appointed' - for example to clarify that it is the Responsible Officer's responsibility to appoint a clinical supervisor or workplace reporter.
- 'You must personally ensure...' - to clarify that the responsibility lies with the doctor to make sure that the GMC has been informed of the required information.
- Breaking down the restrictions - for example by listing each requirement separately within a restriction.

Why are these changes being made?

The context in which medicine is practised and the wider context in which we regulate doctors changes and from time to time we need to review our systems to ensure they continue to be effective.

These updates to the standard wording of our conditions, undertakings and glossary are based on feedback through internal and external consultation. With the aim of ensuring that all requirements are sufficient, clear and workable.

Where can you find out more?

The current and new versions of our conditions, undertakings and glossary can be found online at:

www.mpts-uk.org/doctors-and-representatives/hearing-resources

If you have any further questions, please get in touch with your GMC Investigation Officer.

How can you check which version of the glossary applies?

The GMC's online register includes details of any restrictions placed on a doctor's registration and a link to the applicable glossary version.

The online register can be found at:

www.gmc-uk.org/registration-and-licensing/the-medical-register