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PRESS RELEASE

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Last month, representatives from the NASGP met with the General Medical Council to examine their proposals to change the basis on which a doctor's license to practise is approved in order to include the requirement to provide information which will support a more risk-based approach to regulation.

We learnt that the GMC are examining proposals to decide which GPs require a 'light touch' in terms of revalidation, and those require a 'heavier touch'. Those that work within GMC approved 'low-risk' environments will fall into the former category.

We were reassured that the GMC sees its remit to improve the working environments of doctors, particularly as it would reduce the £30m it now spends on dealing with problems of poor performance.

Dr Richard Fieldhouse, NASGP CEO, said "Sessional GPs work in many environments and under current proposals will be regarded as 'high risk', in that working flexibly and independently makes it very difficult for many of us to collect sufficient evidence to support our participation in ongoing professional development that shows we are *not* at 'high risk'."

We showed them that Flexible GPs can provide their own approved environment through SGP Support Teams, and even those who prefer to work independently can reduce their risk by applying the same ideas.

The GMC have now provided the NASGP with suggestions for quality improvement activities:

- Clear policies aimed at managing risks
- Procedures to identify and remedy poor performance
- A programme of quality improvement activities
 - Clinical guidelines
 - CPD/life-long learning
 - Audit
 - Effective monitoring of clinical care
 - Research and development
 - Security of patient information

Providing evidence of participation in these activities would confer a lighter touch in terms of revalidation, and membership of a Sessional GP Support Team will help SGPs participate in these activities to greater effect.

The GMC are very much at the beginning of developing this idea, so it is an exciting time to be involved and to be able to help shape the outcome of this process.

Ends

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard Fieldhouse', with a flourish at the end.

Dr Richard Fieldhouse
CEO NASGP

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