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Disclosure of Information

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General
Medical
Council

Regulating doctors
Ensuring good medical practice

Our Powers Under the Medical Act 1983

- To require anyone we think has information relevant to our Fitness to Practise procedures, to supply information or produce documents
- To require doctors subject to FTP proceedings to supply details of ALL their employers (as soon as is reasonably practicable)

Extension of our Medical Act Powers in 2006

- To disclose information about specific doctors, or all doctors, where we consider it to be in the public interest
- To seek a court order requiring information to be supplied or documents produced if someone fails to do so within 14 days

Our Duties under the Medical Act 1983

- To notify the Ministers for Health in all four countries and the Department of Health that we are investigating as soon as reasonably practicable
- To notify ALL of a doctor's employers that we are investigating as soon as is reasonably practicable
- To publish a range of decisions by Fitness to Practise Panel, Interim Orders Panel and Investigation Committee re finding of impairment, sanction or warning

Disclosure at Adjudications Stage

There are three main ways we disclose or publish information

- Telephone Enquiry to Contact Centre
- Online access to List of Registered Medical Practitioners
- Formal notification following a FTP decision

The Decisions Circular

Through a monthly Decisions Circular we notify a number of foreign jurisdictions of all decisions leading to action on registration made by

- Fitness to Practise Panels
- Interim Orders Panels
- Case Examiners

Under our general powers we also write directly to notify individual foreign regulators if we know a doctor has a connection with another country.

2009 Improvements to the Circular

The 2009 re launch of the Decisions Circular included

- A fully electronic format with search facilities against the doctor's name, GMC No, DOB, PMQ, date of qualification, specialty, geographical area
- Circulation extended to 170 countries
- Decisions reported extended to include warnings and voluntary erasure/admin erasure in FTP cases
- Production of the Circular is fully automated
- Links directly to the Online Register so information is fully up to date

Key Principles

- All sanctions on registration are public records
- Sanctions remain on record indefinitely
- All historical information once in the public domain should be disclosed to any enquirer