

Response to the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges and General Medical Council consultation on developing a framework for generic professional capabilities

September 2015

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Professional Standards Authority for Health and Social Care promotes the health, safety and wellbeing of patients, service users and the public by raising standards of regulation and voluntary registration of people working in health and care. We are an independent body, accountable to the UK Parliament.
- 1.2 As part of our work we oversee nine health and care professional regulators (including the General Medical Council) and report annually to Parliament on their performance. More information about our work and the approach we take is available at www.professionalstandards.org.uk.
- 1.3 We welcome the opportunity to respond to this consultation about the framework for generic professional capabilities. We do not propose to respond to each of the consultation questions, but to make a few general observations as we believe that this is the way in which we can add most value as an oversight body.

2. Comments on the framework for generic professional capabilities

- 2.1 We are pleased that the medical specialty curricula will align with Good Medical Practice and the duties of a doctor. We also support the premise that – in order to provide safe and effective care – doctors in training must develop and demonstrate appropriate professional behaviours, as well as competence in the relevant specialty.
- 2.2 We note that raising concerns, the duty of candour and promoting an open and transparent culture are covered in the generic professional capabilities and their inclusion in the final framework is essential.
- 2.3 Clarifying or using alternatives to terms such as ‘Human Factors’ and ‘followership’ will help ensure the framework’s accessibility to a range of audiences, as well as a common understanding of key concepts.
- 2.4 The Authority recognises the big step made in gaining consensus on these common capabilities across the numerous medical specialties.

3. Further information

- 3.1 We hope these comments have been helpful and look forward to seeing the final version of the framework. Please get in touch with the Policy team, if you would like to discuss this response with us. Our e-mail address is: policy@professionalstandards.org.uk.

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