

Professional Competence



How can PCS address the Medical Council's 8 Domains of Good Professional Practice?

The Medical Council's eight Domains of Good Professional Practice set out the principles on which good practice is founded. These principles together describe medical professionalism in action. The Domains provide a framework to ensure the inclusion of the essential learning activities undertaken by doctors during the course of a five year cycle. These skills are necessary to effectively meet the health care needs of the people they serve whether through direct medical treatment or education, management or governance

Doctors enrolled on Professional Competence Schemes will be required, using the Council's eight Domains of Good Professional Practice, to:

- Reflect on their practice
- Identify areas of practice where they are required to stay up to date
- Identify areas of practice they wish to further progress and
- Develop their Personal Development Plan in line with the above

Doctors are best placed to choose the activities that reflect their educational needs and will be expected to make a judgement on the value of a particular activity based on their scope of practice. They are expected to map their activities against the relevant Domain of Good Professional Practice and ensure that the activities undertaken during the course of a five year cycle encompasses all eight domains.

It is possible to assign up to three different Domains to each of your claims in ePortfolio for Professional Competence.

The following table outlines the categories and Domains of Good Professional Practice that activities in these categories reflect:

CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Category	Domains of Good Professional Practice Reflected
External (Maintenance of Knowledge and Skills) Example Activities: National/International Meetings College/Society Meetings	Patient Safety and Quality of Patient Care Communication and Interpersonal Skills Management Professionalism Clinical Skills
Internal (Practice Evaluation and Development) Example Activities: Grand Rounds, Clinical Clubs Chart Reviews Multidisciplinary Team Meetings	Patient Safety and Quality of Patient Care Relating to Patients Communication and Interpersonal Skills Collaboration and Teamwork Management Professionalism Clinical Skills
Personal Learning Example Activities Journals e-learning	Scholarship Professionalism
Research or Teaching Example Activities: Postgraduate Trainer/Examiner, Publishing articles Preparation and delivery of lectures	Communication and Interpersonal Skills Management Scholarship Professionalism

CLINICAL (PRACTICE) AUDIT

Category	Domains of Good Professional Practice Reflected
Clinical (Practice) Audit (Measurement, Comparison, Evaluation) Example Activities: Skills measurement of individual compliance with guidelines/protocols	Patient Safety and Quality of Patient Care Relating to Patients Communication and Interpersonal Skills Management Professionalism Clinical Skills

Eight Domains of Good Professional Practice as devised by Medical Council

Patient Safety and Quality of Patient Care

Patient safety and quality of patient care should be at the core of the health service delivery that a doctor provides. A doctor needs to be accountable to their professional body, to the organisation in which they work, to the Medical Council and to their patients thereby ensuring the patients whom they serve receive the best possible care.

Relating to Patients

Good medical practice is based on a relationship of trust between doctors and society and involves a partnership between patient and doctor that is based on mutual respect, confidentiality, honesty, responsibility and accountability.

Communication and Interpersonal Skills

Medical practitioners must demonstrate effective interpersonal communication skills. This enables the exchange of information, and allows for effective collaboration with patients, their families and also with clinical and non-clinical colleagues and the broader public.

Collaboration and Teamwork

Medical practitioners must co-operate with colleagues and work effectively with healthcare professionals from other disciplines and teams. He/she should ensure that there are clear lines of communication and systems of accountability in place among team members to protect patients.

Management (including self management)

A medical practitioner must understand how working in the health care system, delivering patient care and how other professional and personal activities affect other healthcare professionals, the healthcare system and wider society as a whole.

Scholarship

Medical practitioners must systematically acquire, understand and demonstrate the substantial body of knowledge that is at the forefront of the field of learning in their specialty, as part of a continuum of lifelong learning. They must also search for the best information and evidence to guide their professional practice.

Professionalism

Medical practitioners must demonstrate a commitment to fulfilling professional responsibilities by adhering to the standards specified in the Medical Council's "Guide to Professional Conduct and Ethics for Registered Medical Practitioners".

Clinical Skills

The maintenance of Professional Competence in the clinical skills domain is clearly specialty-specific and standards should be set by the relevant Post-Graduate Training Body according to international benchmarks.