

BY EMAIL

To:

- Designated supervising consultants of temporary registrants
- COPDEND Chair and Lead Dean for Dental Core Training
- National Advice Centre for Postgraduate Dental Education, RCS England

14 October 2024

Dear Colleague,

Re: Supervision arrangements for temporary registrants working in oral and maxillofacial departments

I am contacting you concerning the GDC's temporary registration scheme.

We have recently become aware that communications from the GDC have sometimes contained inconsistent advice regarding the requirements for the supervision of temporary registrants, particularly those working in oral and maxillofacial surgery (OMFS) departments.

We sincerely apologise for any confusion or inconvenience that this may have caused, and recognise the need to review and update our temporary registration policy and guidelines to ensure that they are as effective as possible in the changing healthcare system.

We are currently looking at the best way to deliver that review, to address issues around supervision, as well as other issues which have been highlighted to us (for example, considering the range of posts suitable for temporary registrants).

Whilst we cannot guarantee any future review outcomes, we wish to clarify what we currently consider to be **acceptable supervision arrangements for temporary registrants working in OMFS departments**:

- Temporary registrants must have a GDC registered designated supervising consultant. If that is an OMFS consultant, they must be dual registered (as per our [position statement](#) on dual registration – see section 15). The consultant has overarching supervisory responsibility for the temporary registrant.
- The designated supervising consultant is responsible for putting a training plan in place which includes details of who will be supervising the temporary registrant at each stage, and we would expect patient safety to be central to that planning. We accept that 'day to day' clinical supervisors could be GMC registered OMFS doctors, where the consultant considers those individuals to be appropriate supervisors for the activities being performed by the temporary registrant. We note that the temporary registrant should only be operating within the training and scope of an oral surgeon.
- We would usually require there to be a fully registered dentist on the premises whilst temporary registrants are working, to assist in cases of patient difficulty or emergency.

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However, we understand that there may not always be GDC registrants on duty in the OMFS team, OMFS units may not be co-located with dental departments, and OMFS doctors would normally be able to assist with the type of dental difficulties or emergencies which could arise in the course of the temporary registrant's duties. Therefore, providing the designated supervising consultant is assured that for the individual temporary registrant there are appropriate supervision arrangements and protocols in place to manage any sort of patient difficulty or emergency (for example: during clinics, the 'day to day' GMC registered clinical supervisor is available in person and a fully registered dentist is available to provide remote advice where required; during on call duties, there are hospital protocols in place and an appropriate level of supervisory support from members of the on call team), and the temporary registrant is aware of these, there does not need to be a fully registered dentist on the premises.

We note that the information above is not currently reflected in the GDC temporary registration guidelines. Amendments to the guidelines will be made in due course as part of the review.

If you have any queries about supervision for temporary registrants working in other contexts, please contact the policy team at policyinbox@gdc-uk.org.

We trust that this information will help to address any confusion for current temporary registrants and support the planning of posts for the new training year. We will provide any updates with regards to our wider review as necessary.

Kind regards,



Alina Grossman

Head of Public Policy

General Dental Council