

HEALTH

Non-medical Professional Regulation

The Secretary of State for Health (Dr. John Reid): On 27 January I announced that the chief medical officer for England had agreed to carry out a review of the revalidation of doctors and related matters, following concerns expressed by Dame Janet Smith in her fifth report from the Shipman inquiry. Dame Janet focused her inquiries, as her remit required, on the medical profession. However if changes are proposed to the arrangements for doctors, it is likely that they will have important implications for the regulatory arrangements for the other health professions, particularly where their roles are changing. And there may be other implications. I have therefore asked Mr. Andrew Foster, director of workforce, to lead a review of non-medical professional regulation. This review will run in parallel to the review into medical issues being conducted by Sir Liam Donaldson. It will consider and advise me about the measures needed to:

strengthen procedures for ensuring that the performance or conduct of non-medical health professionals and other health care staff does not pose a threat to patient safety or the effective functioning of services, particularly focusing on the effective and fair operation of fitness to practise procedures;

ensure the operation of effective systems of continuing professional development and appraisal for non-medical health care staff and make progress towards regular revalidation where this is appropriate;

ensure the effective regulation of health care staff working in new roles within the healthcare sector and of other staff in regular contact with patients.

In the light of the above, it will further consider and recommend any changes needed to the role, structure, functions and number of regulators of non-medical healthcare professional staff. The director of workforce is likely to report his conclusions and recommendations to me towards the end of the year.

As with CMO's Review, there will be an advisory group, which will include experts from non-medical regulators and from the NHS. A larger reference group, which will include education and training bodies and professional organisations as well as consumer and healthcare quality interests, will also support this process.

The members of the advisory group are:

Andrew Foster (Chair)	Director of Workforce, Department of Health (DH)
Chris Beasley	Chief Nursing Officer
Kay East	Chief Health Professions Officer
Prof Sue Hill	Chief Scientific Officer

Prof Raman Bedi	Chief Dental Officer
Dr Jim Smith	Chief Pharmaceutical Officer
Harry Cayton	Director of Patient and Public, DH
Jane Wesson	Chairman, Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence (CHRE)
Sandy Forrest	Director, CHRE
Steve Barnet	Director, NHS Employers
Alastair Henderson	Deputy Director, NHS Employers
Jonathan Asbridge	President, Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC)
Sarah Thewlis	Chief Executive, NMC
Norma Brook	President, Health Professions Council (HPC)
Marc Seale	Chief Executive, HPC
Nic Greenfield	Deputy Director-Workforce, DH
Steve Catling	Head of Professional Standards, DH

Review of Non-Medical Professional Regulation
Terms of Reference

The review will consider and advise Ministers about the measures needed to:

- strengthen procedures for ensuring that the performance or conduct of non-medical health professionals and other health care staff does not pose a threat to patient safety or the effective functioning of services, particularly focusing on the effective and fair operation of fitness to practise procedures;
- ensure the operation of effective systems of continuing professional development and appraisal for non-medical health care staff and make progress towards regular revalidation where appropriate;
- ensure the effective regulation of health care staff working in new roles within the healthcare sector and of other staff in regular contact with patients

In addition, the review will consider whether any changes are needed to the role, structure, functions and number of regulators of non-medical healthcare professional staff.