

TAKE-HOME NOTES:
Probity in professional practice: Part 2

Dr Ashok G Patel and Dr Haider Malik

In this module, we have provided guidance on good conduct for psychiatrists when undertaking research, as well as on their relationships with pharmaceutical and commercial organisations.

We also explored the relationship of psychiatrists with the Royal College of Psychiatrists and other organisations, covering:

- the use of advertising, newsletters and websites
- research undertaken on behalf of the Royal College of Psychiatrists
- seeking funding from commercial organisations.

Furthermore, we gave advice regarding working with colleagues, and what to do when concerns are raised about a colleague's professional conduct.

Finally, we looked at:

- what information is required for self-declaration of probity and health at annual appraisal
- self-prescription and prescribing for friends and family
- declaring an illness where this may compromise one's career.

Reflection

(2.12) What is your understanding of the difference between copyright and plagiarism?

(2.14) What do you know about ghost writing? Do you think it is ethical or not?

(4.5) You are a consultant psychiatrist working in a busy inner city sector. You are stressed at work due to a shortage of staffing and increasing demands from management. You think that you are suffering from mild depression. Do you think it's alright to treat yourself? Do you know any guidelines on self-prescribing?

(4.7) You are a doctor originating from outside the United Kingdom and carry Hepatitis C virus, which you acquired in your country of origin. You have been offered a job in the United Kingdom. The health services here have no access to your previous medical records. You are concerned that if you declare your condition to the employing authorities you might lose the offer of employment. How would you deal with this situation?

References

Advertising Standards Agency (2010). [\[website\]](#)

Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry (ABPI) Code of Practice (2010). [\[PDF\]](#)

British Medical Association (2004) Medical Certificates and Reports. [\[website\]](#)

Department of Health (2007) Positive Steps: Supporting Race Equality in Mental Healthcare. [\[PDF\]](#)

Department of Health (2005) Research Governance Framework for Health and Social Care. [\[PDF\]](#)

Department of Health (2005) Maintaining High Standards in the Modern NHS. [\[PDF\]](#)

Department of Health (2000) Commercial Sponsorship Ethical Standards for the NHS. [\[PDF\]](#)

European Medical Writers Association. [\[website\]](#)

General Medical Council (2004) Confidentiality: Protecting & providing information. [\[PDF\]](#)

General Medical Council (2006) Good Practice in Prescribing Medicines. [\[PDF\]](#)

General Medical Council (2006) Guidance on Conflict of Interest . [\[PDF\]](#)

General Medical Council (2006) Good Medical Practice. [\[PDF\]](#)

General Medical Practice (2006) Guidance on reporting convictions. Reporting criminal and regulatory proceedings within and outside the U.K. [\[PDF\]](#)

General Medical Council (2006) Conflicts of interest. [\[PDF\]](#)

General Medical Council (2006) Maintaining boundaries. [\[PDF\]](#)

General Medical Council (2006) Raising concerns about patient safety. [\[website\]](#)

General Medical Council (2006) Guidance for doctors using registered name and GMC reference numbers. [\[website\]](#)

General Medical Council (2006) Valuing diversity. [\[website\]](#)

General Medical Council (2005) The meaning of fitness to practise. [\[PDF\]](#)

General Medical Council (2005) Indicative sanctions guidance for fitness to practise panels. [\[PDF\]](#)

General Medical Council (2005) Referring a doctor to the GMC: a guide for individual doctors, medical directors and clinical governance managers. [\[website\]](#)

General Medical Council (2004) Confidentiality: protecting and providing information. [\[PDF\]](#)

Medicines and healthcare products regulatory agency (2005) The Blue Guide: Advertising and Promotion of Medicine in the U.K. [\[website\]](#)

National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) [\[website\]](#)

NHS Quality Improvement Scotland (2010) [\[website\]](#)

Royal College of Psychiatrists (2009) Good Psychiatric Practice. [\[PDF\]](#)

Royal College of Psychiatrists (2007) Vulnerable patients,safe doctors: Good practice in our clinical relationships. College Report CR146. [\[PDF\]](#)

Royal College of Psychiatrist (2008) Good Psychiatric Practice: Relationships with pharmaceutical and other commercial organisations. [\[PDF\]](#)

Royal College of Psychiatrists (2006) Good Psychiatric Practice: Confidentiality and information sharing.Council Report CR133. [\[PDF\]](#)

Royal College of Psychiatrists (2004) Good Psychiatric Practice (2nd Edn). College Reports CR125

Royal College of Psychiatrists (2001) Guidance for researchers and for ethics committees on psychiatric research involving human participants. College report CR82. [\[PDF\]](#)

Scottish Executive Health Department (2006) Research governance framework for health and community care. [\[PDF\]](#)

The Committee on Standards in Public Life (the Nolan Committee) (2010). [\[website\]](#)

Further reading

European Medical Writers Association (2010) Guidance on professional and ethical working standards. [\[website\]](#)

International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (IMJCE) (2010) Obligation to Register Clinical Trials. [\[website\]](#)

Sources of further help and support

British Medical Association
BMA House, Tavistock Square
London WC1H 9JP
Tel: 020 7387 4499
<http://www.bma.org.uk/>

General Medical Council
St James Buildings, 79 Oxford Street
Manchester M1 6FQ
Tel: 0845 357 8001
<http://www.gmc-uk.org/>

Hospital Consultants and Specialists Association
1 Kingsclere Road, Overton, Basingstoke
Hants RG25 3JA
Tel: 012 5677 1777
Email: conspec@hcsa.com

Medical and Dental Defence Union of Scotland
Mackintosh House, 120 Blythswood Street
Glasgow G2 4EA
Tel: 0141 221 5858
<http://www.mddus.co.uk/>

Medical Defence Union Limited
230 Blackfriars Road
London SE1 8PJ
Tel: 020 7202 1500
<http://www.the-mdu.com/>

Medical Protection Society
33 Cavendish Square
London W1G 0PS
Tel: 020 7637 0541
<http://www.mps.org.uk/>

National Clinical Assessment Service (NCAS)
1st Floor, Market Towers, 1 Nine Elms Lane
London SW8 5NQ
24-hour emergency contact: 020 7062 1655
Email: <mailto:madvice.service@ncas.nhs.uk>
www.ncas.npsa.nhs.uk

NHS Counter fraud and Security Management Service
Weston House, 246 High Holborn
London WC1V 7EX
Tel: 020 7895 4500
<http://www.cfsms.nhs.uk/>

Psychiatrists Support Service
Royal College of Psychiatrists
17 Belgrave Square
London SW1X 8PG
Tel: 020 7245 0412
Email: psychiatristssupportservice@rcpsych.ac.uk