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## SHAPE OF TRAINING

### *Medical career pathway*

1. The medical education and training pathway, at the moment, for consultants takes between 9 and 15 years. General practitioners undertake between 9 and 11 years of medical education and training.
2. Undergraduate medical courses in the UK typically last five years; some six-year courses offer students the opportunity also to obtain a related BSc or are part of widening access programmes. There are also four-year Graduate Entry Programmes for students with a degree in another subject. Those who successfully complete the course are awarded a UK primary medical qualification which enables them to apply for provisional registration with the GMC and entry to the Foundation Programme.
3. Foundation training is a two year generic medical training programme, which bridges medical school and specialist training. Foundation year 1 (F1) builds on the learning, skills and knowledge obtained during undergraduate education. Foundation year 2 (F2) focuses on giving trainees a breadth of knowledge, skills and experiences in areas such as caring for acutely ill patients and working within community placements. F1 trainees are provisionally registered with the GMC (which limits them to employment in posts approved for F1 training) and obtain full registration and a licence to practise medicine when they have successfully met the training outcomes required to move into F2.
4. When doctors have completed the Foundation programme, they typically move into specialty or GP training. Specialty training lasts between 3 to 8 years depending on the specialty. At the end of which, a doctor receives a Certificate of Completion of Training (CCT) or Certificate of Completion of Training for General Practice (CCTGP). They can then apply to register on either the Specialist Register or the GP Register run by the GMC. Normally, a doctor must be on one of these registers in order to practise as a GP or a consultant in the NHS. (Some Foundation Hospital Trusts appoint doctors to consultant roles who are not on the Specialist Register).
5. Doctors who have not undertaken one of the approved formal training programmes can still qualify for specialist or GP registration. Those who can show that their qualifications or training and experience are equivalent to the standard required for a CCT or CCTGP are eligible for award of a Certificate of Eligibility for Specialist Registration (CESR) or the Certificate of Eligibility for General Practice

Registration (CEGPR). These certificates enable doctors to be registered on the Specialist or GP Register.

6. A significant number of doctors are not on the Specialist Register and are not in a formal training programme. Many work in the NHS as career grade doctors (staff grade and associate specialist level) or as specialty doctors at the level of specialty registrars or as trust doctors at more junior levels. Others work in short or long term locum positions. Many of these doctors require as much supervision as trainees.