Oxford Deanery Policy on Registering and Licensing of Medically and Dentally Qualified Staff employed by the Deanery

The General Medical Council is changing the system of registration of doctors on 16th November 2009. After that date the meaning of registration will change. There will be two levels of doctor, those who are registered and those who are registered AND licensed. To practise medicine in the UK after licensing is introduced, doctors will, by law, need to be both registered and hold a licence to practise. These regulations will apply to doctors practising full time, part time, as a locum, privately or in the NHS, or whether they are employed or self-employed.

Doctors will need a licence if they undertake any form of medical practice for which UK law currently requires them to hold GMC registration. These include, but are not limited to, writing prescriptions, holding a post as a doctor in the NHS, and signing death and cremation certificates.

If the doctor chooses registration without a licence they are able to show to employers and others that you remain in good standing with the GMC. They are able to undertake activities not legally dependent on holding a licence. They are able to use the title 'Doctor' but must make it clear that they do not hold a licence. The lack of a licence will not prevent them from providing assistance in emergencies although they should check with their indemnifier or insurer if they are concerned about any potential liabilities arising from performing such acts.

Policy
All Doctors and Dentists employed in the Deanery must be registered with the GMC or the GDC. Those wishing to continue any dealings with patients must opt for licensing. They will need regular revalidation for their clinical role.

In addition
The Deanery should appoint its own responsible officer, who will need to be a licensed practitioner. The Deanery should require that a proportion of its senior medical staff should be licensed. At present that should be at least three.

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Author: AF Jefferis, Deputy Postgraduate Dean