

## **Policy on applications to GP training following exit from a specialist training programme**

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## Contents

Contents.....	2
1.0 Purpose .....	3
2.0 Scope.....	3
2.1 Within scope .....	3
2.2 Out of scope .....	3
3.0 Policy statement .....	3
3.1 Application to the GP Training Programme .....	4
4.0 Roles and responsibilities .....	6
5.0 Definitions .....	7
6.0 Related and supporting documentation .....	7
7.0 Contact .....	8



## **1.0 Purpose**

The purpose of this policy is to outline the circumstances under which doctors who previously exited a postgraduate training can apply to the National Specialist Training Programme in General Practice (GP Training Programme).

## **2.0 Scope**

### **2.1 Within scope**

This policy applies to doctors who wish to apply for entry to the National Specialist Training Programme in General Practice (“GP Training Programme” or “Programme”) and have previously participated in but resigned or were removed from:

- The GP Training Programme; or
- Another medical specialist training programme in Ireland; or
- A GP training programme in another jurisdiction.

### **2.2 Out of scope**

This policy is out of scope for a person who previously successfully completed a programme of specialist postgraduate medical training. They may refer to the entry requirements to the GP Training Programme like other first-time applicants.

Applicants who wish to apply for recognition of prior learning should refer to the Recognition of Prior Learning Policy.

## **3.0 Policy statement**

A person who resigned or was removed from the GP Training Programme, another medical specialist training programme in Ireland or a recognised GP training programme in another jurisdiction *may* be eligible to apply to enrol in GP training subject to the conditions outlined below.

The decision to approve an application to the GP Training Programme is at the discretion of the Irish College of GPs (“the College” or “College”).



This Policy and corresponding Procedures are not concerned with the exit and return processes of other training bodies. However, the conditions that led to a doctor's resignation or removal from a training programme as well as the change in circumstances that would render that person a viable candidate for the GP Training Programme are key considerations.

### **3.1 Application to the GP Training Programme**

All applications under this policy will be treated on a case-by-case basis. Prior experience in a specialist training programme is no guarantee of admission.

Applications will not be accepted if the person:

- Exhausted the number of examination attempts in their previous specialist training programme (e.g. MICGP, MRCGP); or
- Cannot obtain a valid registration with the IMC or;
- Their registration has conditions restricting them from practicing medicine.

The reader is referred to the accompanying Procedures for a description of the criteria and evidence that will be considered when reviewing a person's eligibility to apply to the GP Training Programme and/or assess a subsequent application.

#### *3.1.1 Following resignation from a specialist training programme*

An applicant who previously resigned from a programme described in Section 2.0 and meets the eligibility criteria below may apply to the GP Training Programme.

Eligibility criteria are:

- Written support from the training body through which the previous training was undertaken (scheme director or equivalent);
- Satisfactory progression prior to resignation;
- Has not exhausted the number of examination attempts permitted by the relevant training body (e.g. MICGP, MRCGP);

An applicant who was not progressing satisfactorily prior to their resignation will be subject to the same conditions as an applicant under section 3.1.2.

An applicant who resigned prior to an investigation or issuance of a decision related to disciplinary conduct will be subject to the same conditions as an applicant under section 3.1.3.



### *3.1.2 Following removal for competency/progression issues*

An applicant who was previously removed by a training body from a programme described in Section 2.0 due to competency and/or progression issues and who meets the eligibility criteria below may apply to the GP Training Programme.

Eligibility criteria are:

- Written support from the training body where the previous training was undertaken (scheme director or equivalent);
- Clear evidence that the issues leading to the trainee's removal from the training programme have been resolved satisfactorily;
- Has not exhausted the number of examination attempts permitted by the relevant training body (e.g. MICGP, MRCGP).

### *3.1.3 Following removal for disciplinary action/issues*

Applications following removal by a training body as a result of disciplinary action will generally not be accepted. Such applications may be considered by the National GP Training Directorate at their discretion under exceptional circumstances and if the applicant also meets all entry requirements of first-time applicants. The applicant will be required to provide substantive evidence of remediation and how their circumstances render them suitable for GP training.

### *3.1.4 Following removal due to external events*

An applicant who was previously removed from a programme described in Section 2.0 due to events not covered by sections 3.1.2 and 3.1.3 may be eligible to apply. Substantial documentation regarding the circumstances related to the applicant's removal and subsequent remediation may be required to determine eligibility to the GP Training Programme.

Examples include but are not limited to:

- Loss of a work permit;
- Termination of an employment contract;
- Loss of medical registration;
- Breach of the GP Training Agreement (or equivalent in the relevant training body);
- Other acute and sudden external events impacting their participation in the specialist training programme.



An application following termination of employment because of disciplinary action or other breach of professional conduct will not generally be accepted. The applicant should contact the GP Training Admissions Team before applying to the GP Training Programme.

#### **4.0 Roles and responsibilities**

GP Training Admissions Team	Review and determine an applicant's suitability for GP training.
Applicant	Provide full and accurate information related to their applicant for the GP Training Programme and their prior participate in a specialist training programme.

## 5.0 Definitions

Applicant	A person who previously participated in but did not complete a GP training programme and/or participated in medical specialist training programme and is applying to the National Specialist Training Programme in General Practice (GP Training Programme).
Resignation	Withdrawal from a training programme of the person's own volition.
Removal	Termination, dismissal, expulsion from a training programme or employment contract and usually as a result of performance or disciplinary issues.
Exceptional circumstances	<p>Exceptional circumstances may be defined as a demonstrated change in circumstances, which can be shown on the ability to train at that time and may include severe personal illness or family caring responsibility incompatible with continuing to train.</p> <p>Whilst it is difficult to define 'exceptional circumstances', it should be accepted that this must have been something that directly and specifically affected the person's ability at the time. An exceptional circumstance is not something that could have been dealt with and managed at the time and should be able to be evidenced as justifiably exceptional.</p>

## 6.0 Related and supporting documentation

- Procedure on applications to GP training following exit from a specialist training programme
- Exit from GP Training Policy and Procedures
- Disciplinary Action Policy
- Disciplinary Action Procedure
- Progression Review Committee Policy
- Progression Review Committee Procedures
- Recognition of Prior Learning Policy



## 7.0 Contact

Quality assurance and enhancement

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