

General
Medical
Council

A medical licensing assessment

Developing the proposals for consultation

Working with doctors Working for patients

What is our aim?

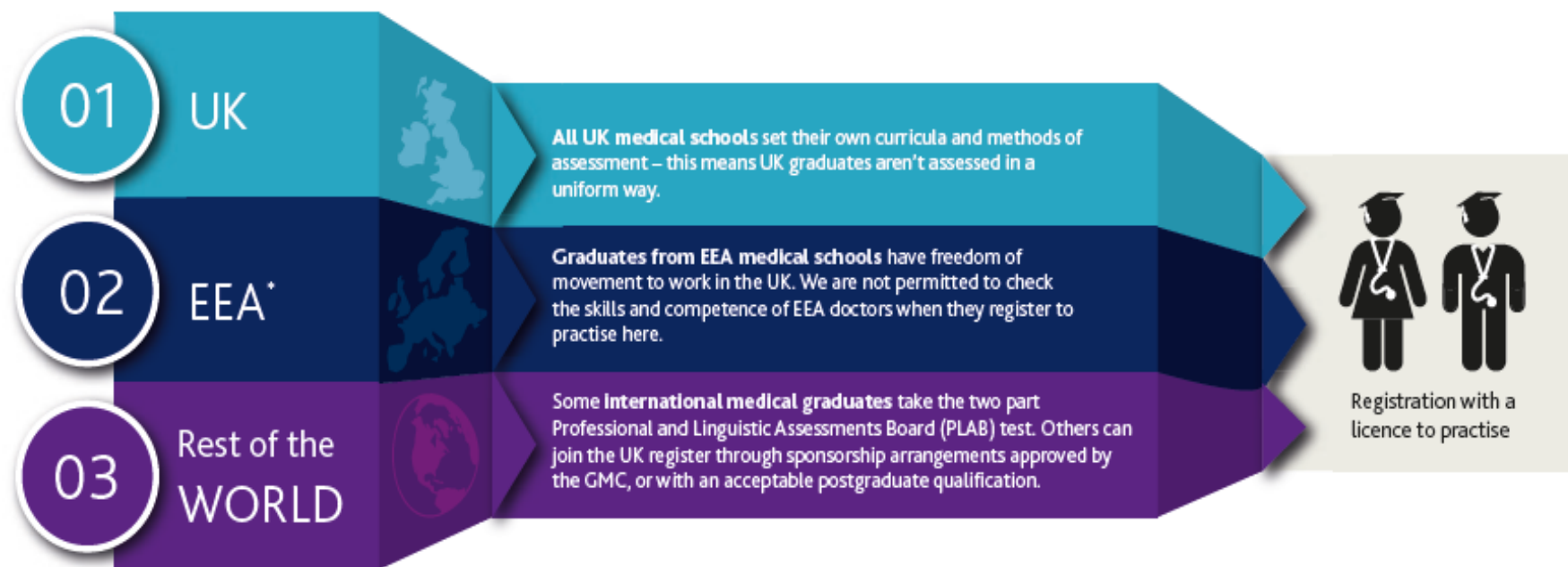
To create a single, objective demonstration that those applying for a licence to practise medicine in the UK can meet a common standard for safe practice.

MEDICAL LICENSING ASSESSMENT – THE CASE FOR CHANGE

There are currently three main routes to practice in the UK, and no single standard of entry on to the UK medical register. This leads to inconsistency and variation.



Medical graduates



* European Economic Area

OUR AMBITION FOR A MEDICAL LICENSING ASSESSMENT (MLA)

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We will:

- invest our resources in the latest assessment technology
- learn from other licensing assessments
- work with medical schools and experts to develop an MLA.



We want to:

- create an internationally- recognised medical assessment
- deliver an assessment that complies with European law
- make sure standards of medical practice are not compromised
- create a marker of the excellence of UK medical education and practice.

An MLA will:

- provide assurance, regardless of where doctors are educated or trained
- reduce the burden of regulation on UK medical schools with the single assessment providing assurance on the outcomes achieved by their graduates
- maintain diversity in medical curricula through an MLA core within university finals
- enhance confidence in new UK doctors
- assess medical students by a consistent UK-wide standard.

Progress to date

- September 2014 - the GMC's Council gave approval in principle for work on the MLA.
- This was followed by preliminary evidence gathering, policy development and engagement.
- June 2015 - following consideration of an initial outline business case, the Council agreed further development of an MLA.
- We are setting up an expert reference group chaired by Professor Neil Johnson of the MSC Assessment Alliance to assist with developing the format of the assessment.
- We are working towards a consultation later this year.

WHAT MIGHT A MEDICAL LICENSING ASSESSMENT LOOK LIKE?

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Our thinking, which will now be developed and tested, is that the assessment would be of three parts, and focus on clinical competencies and competencies linked to patient safety and healthcare quality in the context of UK clinical practice.

A test of applied
knowledge

A test of clinical
skills

A confirmation that
the doctor is fit to
maintain a licence
to practise

The first two parts would be taken by UK graduates and international medical graduates. They would need to succeed in these first two parts to register as a doctor and get a licence to practise.

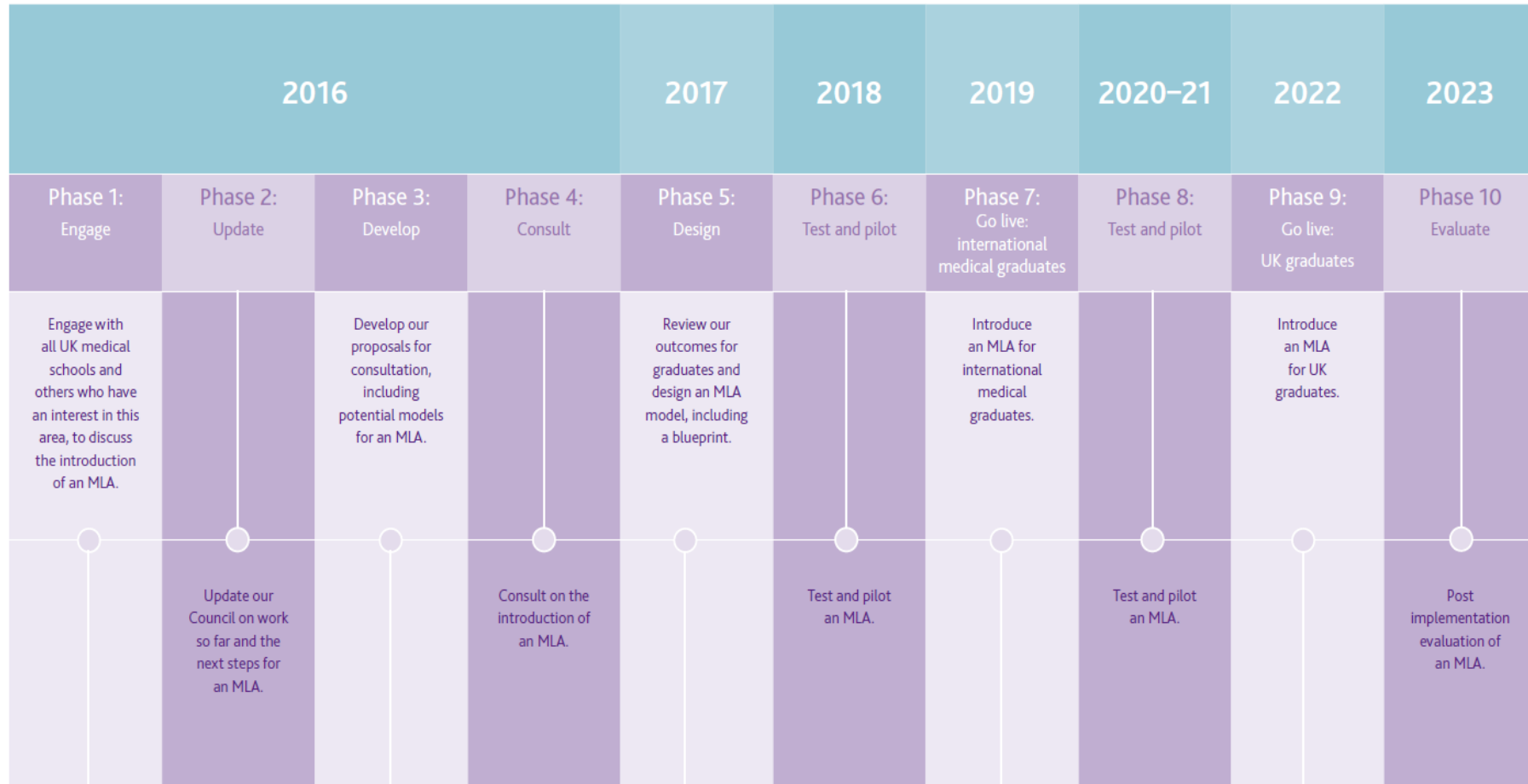
The third part would be taken by all doctors on the medical register who are subject to revalidation to maintain their licence to practise.

How the model might work

- International Medical Graduates would be required to pass the knowledge and clinical skills components of the MLA
- UK graduates would need to pass knowledge and clinical skills components before graduation
- For UK graduates, the MLA would be the *'Core'* and *'Finals'* (MLA plus *'Options'*) would reflect curricular diversity
- **All doctors** obtaining registration with a licence to practise (LtP) would need to confirm they are fit to maintain a licence through their first revalidation within, say, 18 or 24 months of joining the register.

MEDICAL LICENSING ASSESSMENT (MLA) ROADMAP

Since 2014, we've been looking into the feasibility of introducing a unified assessment for doctors who want to practise in the UK. We are now seeking the views and support of a range of expert advisers and partners to develop the format of the assessment, confirm governance arrangements and work towards consultation to start later in 2016.

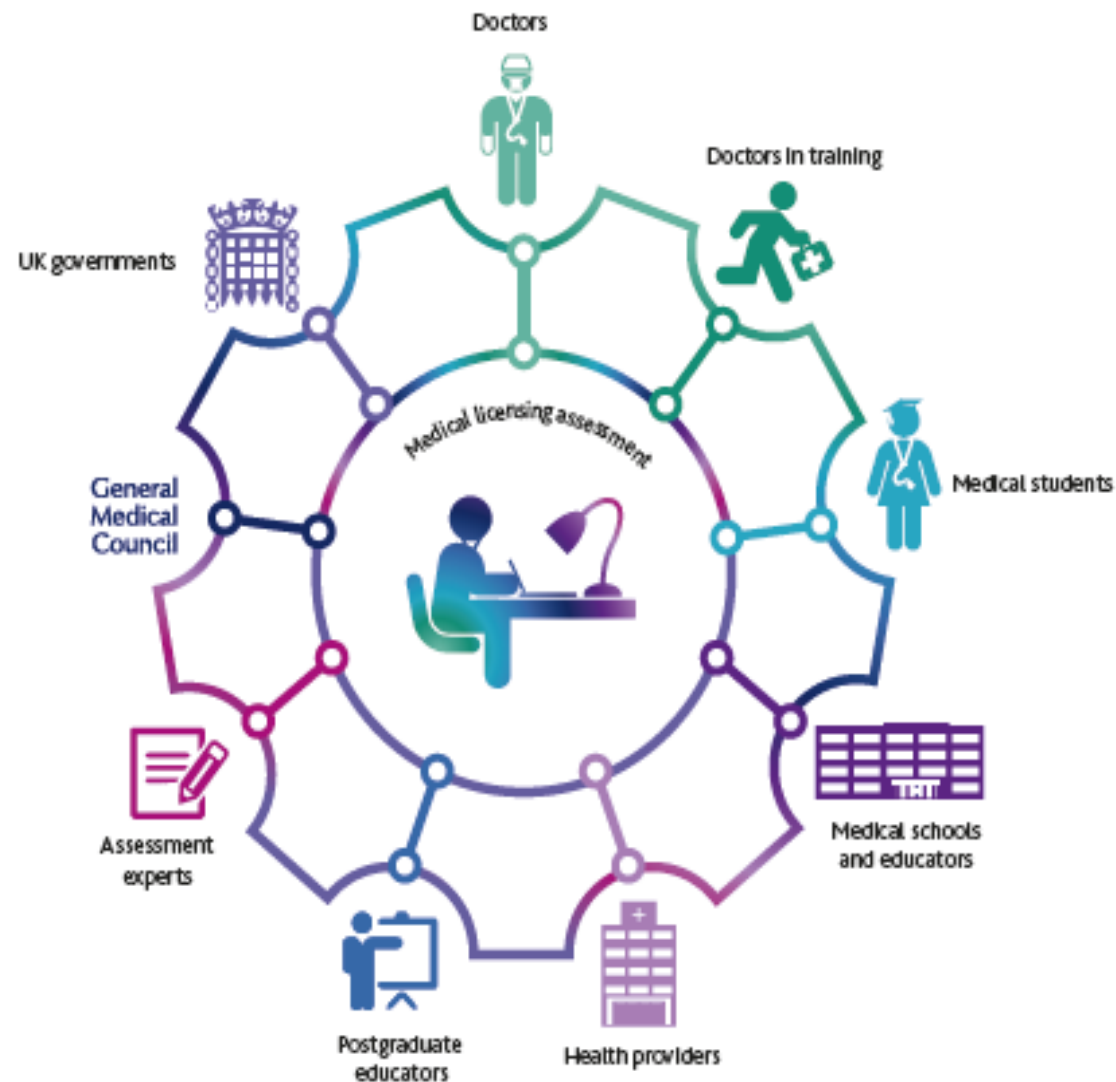


Working with doctors Working for patients

The timeline for the introduction of a medical licensing assessment is in development and could change as the project progresses.

WORKING COLLABORATIVELY TO DEVELOP THE MEDICAL LICENSING ASSESSMENT (MLA)

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We will:

- be open and collaborate with others to progress the MLA
- create a formal governance structure involving key interest groups to develop the MLA
- welcome all questions, comments and challenges.

Making contact

- Webpage: www.gmc-uk.org/mla
- All questions and comments welcome
- Anyone interested in being engaged and kept up to date let us know!
- Contacts:
 - Judith Hulf jhulf@gmc-uk.org
 - Martin Hart mhart@gmc-uk.org
 - Kate Gregory kgregory@gmc-uk.org
 - Ben Griffith bgriffith@gmc-uk.org

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Thank you

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