

# Circular 12/94: EU Directive on Specific Training in General Practice

**Title: EU Directive on specific training in general practice**

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**From: Department of Health, Ireland**

**To: Each Health Board Chief Executive Officer**

**Re: EU Directive on specific training in general practice**

Dear Chief Executive Officer

I am directed by the Minister for Health to refer to EU Council Directive 93/16 on specific training in general practice. This Directive applies specific requirements in relation to general practice training in Member States and the exercise of general practice under national social security schemes. The application of the Directive as set out in this Circular has been agreed with the nominated representatives of the Chief Executive Officers following consultation with the representatives of the Medical Council, the Irish College of General Practitioners and the Irish Medical Organisation.

## **Doctors participating under the General Medical Services Scheme**

As and from 1 January, 1995 it will be an essential requirement for doctors participating under the General Medical Services Scheme

- to have graduated from a recognised vocational training scheme or
- to possess acquired rights as specified under the Directive.

Doctors who have not been vocationally trained and are contract holders as at 31 December, 1994 under the Agreement to provide services under the GMS Scheme possess acquired rights under the Directive. This definition includes assistants formally appointed by the relevant health board before 31 December, 1994.

## **Entry to GMS as and from 1 January, 1995**

It will be an essential requirement for entry to the General Medical Services Scheme as and from 1 January, 1995 for doctors to:

- (i) have graduated from a recognised vocational training scheme, or
- (ii) possess acquired rights under the Directive which applies

- to registered medical practitioners who will meet existing entry requirements for appointment to a GMS post by 31 December, 1994, and

- to registered medical practitioners who will complete, before 30 June, 1997, a self-structured training programme in general practice recognised by the Irish College of General Practitioners and accepted by the Medical Council which has commenced before 31 December, 1994.

Practitioners who intend to seek recognition for a training programme are required to notify the Council before 28 February, 1995.

The above requirements do not affect existing arrangements for marking the qualifications. training etc. of candidates who apply for GMS posts.

### **Certification**

The Medical Council will consult with the ICGP on training in general practice. Under the Directive, the Medical Council will be responsible for issuing appropriate certification to doctors who graduate or have graduated from a recognised vocational training scheme. The Medical Council will also be responsible for issuing certificates on request to doctors who possess acquired rights under the Directive.

### **Qualifications, certificates issued by other Member States**

Diplomas, certificates or other evidence of formal qualifications issued to nationals of Member States by other Member States in accordance with the Directive are recognized for the purpose of meeting the training requirements for entry to the GMS Scheme.

Certificates of acquired rights under the Directive issued to nationals of Member States by other Member States are also recognized.

EU nationals who have qualifications, training or experience obtained outside the EU and which the Medical Council deems to be at least equivalent to the requirements at (i) or (ii) above are eligible to compete for entry to the GMS Scheme.

### **Position of doctors providing locum services or services on a sessional basis to medical card holders**

Registered medical practitioners who provide locum/deputising services under the GMS Scheme may continue to provide such services after 1 January, 1995. Registered medical practitioners who engage in the provision of services to medical card patients on a sessional basis may also continue to provide such services after 1 January, 1995. However, it is the intention over time to require medical practitioners providing such services to have graduated from a recognised vocational training scheme. These arrangements will be reviewed by December, 1997.

Yours sincerely

Alan Aylward  
GMS  
22 December, 1994