

Statement on the Recognition of GPs as Specialists in General Practice/Family Medicine

We, the undersigned, as the four-nation representatives of the profession from the British Medical Association and Royal College of GPs, state that the recognition of general practitioners as specialists in the UK is long overdue.

Following graduation with a medical degree, doctors choosing general practice undergo at least five years of specialist training, divided between hospital posts and supervised periods in a GP training practice.

There is a rigorous exit examination (MRCGP) and the specialism is recognised both by the existence of Chairs of General Practice in universities and medical schools, and by the establishment of the Royal College of General Practitioners.

General practice/family medicine is recognised as a speciality in most countries and in particular in Europe where the UK is now an outlier. Twenty-four out of twenty-eight EU states recognise the speciality, as does Australia, the USA and Canada.

Recently UEMO (the European Union of General Practitioners/Family Physicians) called for all European countries to recognise the speciality and the statement has the support of other European medical organisations.

We make this statement with the endorsement of the British Medical Association's Representative Body and the Council decision of the Royal College of General Practitioners.

It is an anachronistic anomaly that the postgraduate training of general practitioners remains unrecognised in this respect and we call upon the government and General Medical Council to make the changes necessary to add general practitioners to the List of Specialists and for the status of general practitioners to be equal to that of their secondary care colleagues.

General practitioners are specialists in general practice/family medicine and must be recognised as such.



Dr Chaand Nagpaul CBE
Chair, BMA General Practitioners Committee UK



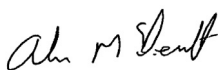
Professor Maureen Baker CBE
Chair, Royal College of General Practitioners UK



Dr Tom Black
Chair, BMA General Practitioners Committee Northern Ireland



Dr John O'Kelly
Chair, Royal College of General Practitioners Northern Ireland



Dr Alan McDevitt
Chair, BMA Scottish General Practitioners Committee



Dr Miles Mack
Chair, Royal College of General Practitioners Scotland



Dr Charlotte Jones
Chair, BMA General Practitioners Committee Wales



Dr Rebecca Payne
Chair, Royal College of General Practitioners Wales