

Role and duties of Practice Monitors

The role and duties of Practice Monitors are set out as follows:

- (i) it is the duty of the doctor being monitored to make the necessary arrangements to enable the Practice Monitor to perform the audit and monitoring effectively;
- (ii) the Practice Monitor's duty is to monitor the performance of (but not to teach or train) the doctor being monitored. If he detects any irregularity, he/she should report such irregularity to the Medical Council for enforcement action. He/she has no duty to prevent or correct the irregularity committed by the doctor being monitored;
- (iii) there is no doctor-patient relationship between the Practice Monitor and the patients of the doctor being monitored, as the Practice Monitor is not involved in the medical work performed by the doctor being monitored;
- (iv) if the Practice Monitor wishes to give the doctor being monitored an opportunity to rectify any detected irregularity by indicating what he/she considers to be the proper practice, but the doctor being monitored disagrees with his/her view and persists in the detected irregularity, he/she should simply report the irregularity (as well as any opportunity given for the doctor being monitored to rectify the irregularity) to the Medical Council; and
- (v) if there is a report of any irregularity, the Medical Council will decide whether disciplinary action should be taken. If so, the statutory procedures for preliminary investigation and inquiry will be followed to determine whether the doctor being monitored has breached the condition and what action should be taken in respect of such breach. In such situation, the Practice Monitor may be called as a prosecution witness to give evidence as to how the breach occurred.