

### Providing a good standard of practice and care

1. Patients are entitled to good standards of practice and care from their doctors. Essential elements of this are professional competence, good relationships with patients and colleagues and observance of professional ethical obligations.

### Good clinical care

2. You must take suitable and prompt action when necessary. This must include:
  - an adequate assessment of the patient's condition, based on the history and clinical signs including, where necessary, an appropriate examination;
  - providing or arranging investigations or treatment where necessary;
  - referring the patient to another practitioner, when indicated.

3. In providing care you must:

- recognise the limits of your professional competence;
- be willing to consult colleagues;
- be competent when making diagnoses and when giving or arranging treatment;
- keep clear, accurate, and contemporaneous patient records which report the relevant clinical findings, the decisions made, information given to patients and any drugs or other treatment prescribed;

- keep colleagues well informed when sharing the care of patients;

- pay due regard to efficacy and the use of resources;
- prescribe only the treatment, drugs, or appliances that serve patients' needs.

### Treatment in emergencies

4. In an emergency, you must offer anyone at risk the treatment you could reasonably be expected to provide.

### Keeping up to date

5. You must maintain the standard of your performance by keeping your knowledge and skills up to date throughout your working life. In particular, you should take part regularly in educational activities which relate to your branch of medicine.

6. You must work with colleagues to monitor and improve the quality of health care. In particular, you should take part in regular and systematic clinical audit.

7. Some parts of medical practice are governed by law. You must observe and keep up to date with the laws which affect your practice.

### Teaching

8. The GMC encourages you to help the public to be aware of and understand health issues and to contribute to the education and training of other doctors, medical students, and colleagues.