

## Non-trainee Grade (NTG) Doctors in England – use of the Horus ePortfolio

Trainees decide to go out of training programmes temporarily for many different reasons. Sometimes it is to gain specific experiences (e.g. broadening exposure to different specialties – both in the UK and abroad, taking time out to do educational, leadership or research work). Others may simply not feel able to ready to make a commitment to a specialty and want some ‘thinking time’. Whatever the reason, there are some important issues to be aware of.

If you are considering this, it is important that speak to your Educational Supervisor or a senior member of the education team at your current employment (e.g. Director of Medical Education (DME), Postgraduate Clinical Tutor or Careers Advisor) for advice before you commit to ‘time out’.

As an NTG doctor, you will not have a ‘connection’ to a Health Education England local office (formerly known as a ‘deanery’) and **it is your responsibility to tell the GMC what you are doing**. You will need a ‘Responsible Officer’ in your employing organisation so that you can revalidate and continue to practice. For trainees on training programmes, this is the Postgraduate Dean, but for NTG doctors it is usually the Medical Director of the employing organisation or his/her representative. The regulations for this will be different again if you are studying abroad and you should seek the advice of the GMC about whether you should be retaining your license to practice.

Revalidation is the process by which all licensed doctors must demonstrate every five years that they are up to date and fit to practice. Annual appraisal is a key component of revalidation and you are responsible for facilitating this when working as an NTG. For more information, visit the GMC website on

<http://www.gmc-uk.org/doctors/revalidation/12383.asp>

It has been agreed that the Horus ePortfolio can be used as a way to provide some of the evidence that you will require for appraisal and validation if you are a Non-Trainee Grade doctor in one of the following categories:

- Junior doctors who are in FY1 or FY2 ‘equivalent’ posts (stand-alone or locum appointment for service (LAS) posts).
- Junior doctors who have successfully completed Foundation Year 2, but are working in a non-training post (outside a recognised training programme)

Please remember that as an NTG doctor, you are not subject to a formal ‘Annual Review of Competence Progression’ (ARCP) and therefore need to make sure that you also complete a ‘Form R’ annually. You will need to obtain this from your employer – you will not have access to it through Horus.

If you do feel ready to commit to a specialty however, it is advisable that you enrol with the respective college of your choice where using a specific college e-portfolio may be more suitable than Horus.

For further advice on careers please visit the [Useful Links](#) page on the [Horus Support Site](#). For further information on how NTGs can use Horus, visit the [NTGs](#) page.