Prescribed Connections to NHS England
This document sets out the rules and arrangements for designated bodies and doctors with a prescribed connection to NHS England, describing which responsible officer they relate to in accordance with the Medical Profession (Responsible Officers) (amendment) Regulations 2013.

From 01/04/2013

To ensure doctors with a prescribed connection are linked to responsible officers according to these criteria

From 01/04/2013

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www.england.nhs.uk/ourwork/qual-clin-lead/revalidation

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1. Background

1.1. Until 31 March 2013, strategic health authority and primary care trust clusters had responsibilities in accordance with The Medical Profession (Responsible Officers) Regulations 2010. From 1 April 2013, NHS England took over these responsibilities in accordance with ‘The Medical Profession (Responsible Officers) (amendment) Regulations, 2013’.

1.2. The purpose of this document is to describe the criteria which will be applied for doctors with a prescribed connection to NHS England to ensure each doctor relates unambiguously to a single responsible officer.

1.3. NHS England is unique amongst designated bodies in that it has the discretion to appoint as many responsible officers as necessary to ensure that each responsible officer has the capacity to carry out their duties under the regulations. The number of responsible officers appointed to NHS England is as follows:

i). 27 area team responsible officers
ii). 4 regional responsible officers
iii). 1 national responsible officer (NHS England medical director)

1.4. The main groups of doctors with prescribed connections to NHS England are:

i). Doctors directly employed within NHS England
ii). Doctors on a medical or ophthalmic performers list
iii). Responsible officers in England (except those who have a prescribed connection to the Department of Health)
iv). Secondary care locums, without a higher connection, linked to a locum agency which is not on the Government Procurement Service framework

1.5. The total number of doctors with a prescribed connection to NHS England is approximately 46,000.

2. Assigning Doctors to a Responsible Officer

Diagrams of the prescribed connections of doctors to responsible officers are provided at Annexes A and B. The following criteria will define the arrangements for assigning each doctor to a responsible officer:

2.1. All doctors relate to a single responsible officer.

2.2. The responsible officers of the regional offices of NHS England and the responsible officers of the NHS Trust Development Authority, Health Education England and the NHS Litigation Authority will relate to the national responsible officer.
**Doctors employed by NHS England**

2.3. Doctors employed by NHS England in national roles (except for NHS England medical director and deputy medical directors) will relate to the national responsible officer.

2.4. The responsible officers for the area teams of NHS England will relate to the relevant regional responsible officer.

2.5. Doctors employed by NHS England in regional roles will relate to the relevant regional responsible officer.

2.6. Doctors employed by NHS England in area team roles will relate to the relevant area team responsible officer.

**Doctors on a performers list**

2.7. Doctors on the medical performers list or the ophthalmic performers list, who work in a practice within a clinical commissioning group, will relate to the area team responsible officer where the clinical commissioning group is located.

2.8. Doctors on the medical performers list or the ophthalmic performers list who do not work in a practice within a clinical commissioning group will relate to the area team responsible officer the shortest distance from the doctor’s GMC registered address.

2.9. Doctors on the medical performers list or the ophthalmic performers list who are not linked to a practice or clinical commissioning group and who have an address outside England will relate to the responsible officer in the area team indicated in Box 1:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Doctors GMC Registered Address is in:</th>
<th>Area Team Responsible Officer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scotland</td>
<td>Cumbria, Northumberland and Tyne and Wear</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Wales: Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board</td>
<td>Cheshire, Warrington and Wirral</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid Wales: Hywel Dda Health Board, Powys Teaching Health Board</td>
<td>Shropshire and Staffordshire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Wales: Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board; Aneurin Bevan Health Board; Cardiff &amp; Vale University Health Board; and Cwm Taf Health Board</td>
<td>Arden, Herefordshire and Worcestershire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Ireland</td>
<td>Merseyside</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isle of Man</td>
<td>Merseyside</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Channel Islands</td>
<td>Wessex</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elsewhere outside UK</td>
<td>London North West</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Other Doctors

2.10. The responsible officers for other NHS and non-NHS designated bodies (except those who have a prescribed connection to the Department of Health) will relate to the regional responsible officer where the principal office of the designated body is located.

2.11. Secondary care locums registered with a locum agency which is not on the Government Procurement Service framework who live in England, will relate to the area team responsible officer the shortest distance from the doctor’s GMC registered address.

2.12. Where no responsible officer is identified through these criteria the national responsible officer at NHS England will assign the doctor to an appropriate responsible officer.

Prescribed connection where there is potentially more than one relationship with a responsible officer

2.13. Where the doctor has a potential prescribed connection to more than one part of NHS England, the criteria are listed in order of rank as follows:

2.14. A doctor employed within a regional office who is also on the medical performers list will relate to the regional responsible officer where they are employed rather than the local area team responsible officer where their practice is located.

2.15. Where the doctor potentially relates to more than one part of NHS England at an equivalent level (for example, a GP works in 2 practices linked to different area teams, or a responsible officer covers 2 designated bodies in different regions), the doctor’s responsible officer is determined by the region or area team covering the location where the doctor performs most of their work (i.e. the time spent working for each organisation in a normal working week).

2.16. Where the doctor has a potential prescribed connection to more than one part of NHS England at an equivalent level and there is no difference in the amount of time spent in each location, the responsible officer is determined by the region or area team the shortest distance from the doctor’s GMC registered address.
The prescribed connection for doctors within the blue line is to NHS England.

* Denotes NHS England Responsible Officers (ROs)
** Responsible officer of other NHS or non-NHS designated bodies including ROs from medical defence organisations, RMO organisations, British College of Aesthetic Medicine, NHS Blood & Transplant, Faculty of Homeopathy, Pathology Delivery Board, Defence Deanery, National Deanery for Pharmaceutical Medicine, NHS Leadership Academy, non-NHS organisations and armed forces (on the basis of the address of the Designated Bodies' headquarters).
Prescribed connections of doctors to responsible officers

1. Responsible officer of regional office
2. Responsible officer of HEE, NHS TDA, NHS Litigation Authority
3. Doctors directly employed by NHS England, working in national roles
4. Responsible officer of area team
5. Responsible officer of other NHS or non-NHS designated bodies
6. Doctors directly employed by NHS England, working in regional roles
7. Doctors on medical or ophthalmic performers list
8. Doctors employed in area team roles
9. Secondary care locums linked to a locum agency which is not a designated body
10. No responsible officer identified through these criteria

- National responsible officer
- National responsible officer
- National responsible officer
- Regional responsible officer
- Regional responsible officer
- Regional responsible officer
- Area team responsible officer
- Area team responsible officer
- Area team responsible officer
- Area team responsible officer
- National responsible officer

Who work in a practice?
Who do not work in a practice?