

## Joint Statement from Professor Sheona MacLeod and Professor Carrie MacEwen

Demonstrating a professional approach to learning is required of doctors in training in order to progress, and of all doctors to meet the requirements for Revalidation. The UK Conference of Postgraduate Medical Deans (COPMeD) and the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges (AoMRC) agree that Doctors need to reflect and learn from experiences, both positive and negative, as part of the essential ongoing development of medical professionals.

It is recognised that doctors work within complex healthcare systems and learning needs to occur in the context of this environment. Reflection and learning outcomes should result in feedback and improvement for organisations, as well as for individuals. Effective team and system-wide learning is essential for the NHS to provide patients with high quality, safe care.

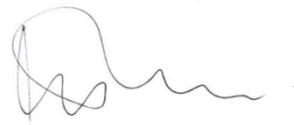
For each professional, the focus should be on developing as a reflective practitioner who learns from experience, and can demonstrate this approach. Learning, including reflection, can be assisted by supportive educational discussions to increase insight and understanding, which result in affirmation of good practice and /or planned actions to make improvements for the future.

Doctors in training must feel able to have such honest and open discussions and should be confident that engaging with this process can provide them with the required evidence of a professional approach to learning. The focus should be on feedback about reflective practice, or descriptions of the increased understanding and resultant actions after discussion, rather than on documenting 'reflection'.

Engaging other stakeholders, COPMeD and the AoMRC will work to provide clear guidance for doctors in training, and those who support their education and training, on how to evidence their professional approach to learning. We will ensure that e-Portfolios are clear about what is required of doctors in training and of their supervisors. We will also work with the GMC, BMA and NHS bodies in the UK to promote a greater emphasis on system-wide learning in the interests of safe, high quality patient care.



Professor Sheona MacLeod  
Chair of COPMeD



Professor Carrie MacEwen  
Chair of AoMRC