

From: James Mitchell [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, August 12, 2024 6:40 PM
To: medboardconsultation
Subject: Public Consultation – Health checks for late career doctors

Name: James Mitchell

I make this submission an individual medical practitioner (aged 54).

I give permission to publish my submission.

The board's view of the problem is too narrow and the new proposals too prescriptive to be widely acceptable. It is intrinsically discriminatory to target assessments to a particular age group, and detailed criteria for assessing competence will generate pointless busywork which may be onerous.

It would be better to normalise the requirement that every doctor have a relationship with their General Practitioner *in the patient role* (which is already recommended in the code of conduct). A first step would be adding the requirement at the time of renewal of registration for every medical practitioner (of any age) to provide an endorsement from their GP that they show no sign of being unfit to practise. This would enforce the current recommendation that doctors should have their own GP, and would address not just infirmity of age but also possible issues of mental illness, drug misuse, and other problems which affect fitness to practice at any age. It would not be discriminatory and might not require any formal assessment structure as GPs are well-placed to understand both their patients' overall health and also the level of function that practicing as a doctor requires. If, with time, it became clear that specific guidance was required for GPs, the Board could provide more detailed instructions.

Regards,
James.

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Dr James Mitchell
[REDACTED]