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To: PerformanceFramework
Subject: consultation re CPD

Categories: Acknowledged

Dear Medical Board

I write in response to your call for feedback regarding CPD obligations. In brief I believe that the proposed CPD (and the existing CPD) is "Mickey Mouse" in that the performance of this CPD seems to be an easy option that is most unlikely to be well correlated with reasonably competent consistent practice. The proposed CPD with its intention to self assess "performance" and "outcomes" seem even worse, as there are vague concepts with few circumstances in which these can be objectively measured and certainly no one should ever believe a self assessment. Even those circumstances where there is an objective measure - eg. death, there will be confounding with other variables, so that the measure is rendered almost worthless. I would urge the board to replace all this "Mickey Mouse" CPD with objective measures. In particular, I believe there should be relevant examinations, performed under proper invigilated exam conditions, for all doctors say every 3 years. Assuming an examination has been passed, the ability to put adequate theoretical knowledge in to practice should be assessed by the practice of the doctor being directly observed, by a peer & perhaps by a "mystery patient" (in the same way as "mystery shoppers" assess the performance of franchise retail stores).

I believe that maintenance and extension of the current highly flawed CPD system, which clearly can be gamed and with no assessed correlation to competence, would be a betrayal of what the board should be doing to ensure doctor competence.

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