**Relaunch of Return to Practice Programme**

NHS England have relaunched the GP Return to Practice (RtP) Programme, implementing recommendations from the NHS England/HEE review of the programme that was completed earlier this year alongside the BMA and RCGP. It introduces the following improvements to the programme:

• A more flexible and streamlined programme offering personalised pathways built around the individual needs of each GP

• A less confusing programme for GPs with the closure of the multiple schemes that currently sit under the programme

• A move away from a “one size fits all” and the expectation that all domestic returners must undertake assessments and placements, particularly those GPs with breaks of less than 5 years

• Widening eligibility for the RCGP managed Portfolio Route to include some domestic returners that have been working in other clinical fields

• Offering mentorship to returning GPs either as additional support or instead of assessments/placements

• The option for GPs to access support to return under a defined scope of practice

• The option for returning GPs to undertake the programme whilst employed providing access to employment rights such as sick pay and annual leave for the first time

• Increased financial support with the monthly bursary for GPs rising to £4000 per month backdated to 1 April 2023

• A move to a self-declaration process for occupational health meaning that the majority of returners will no longer be required to arrange an occupational health check

• A reduction in bureaucracy and paperwork and a new online application system

Full details of the programme can be found [here on the Health Education England website.](https://medical.hee.nhs.uk/medical-training-recruitment/medical-specialty-training/general-practice-gp/how-to-apply-for-gp-specialty-training/return-to-practice/programme-pathways-and-routes)