Some facts and Figures

There are now over 22,000 smart cards in circulation in the NHS.

By March 2004 we will have reached:

- over 30,000 doctors in training and locum doctors in 14 postgraduate medical deanery areas across England
- software installations in more than 250 NHS hospital trusts and some primary care trusts
- 2,000 trained system operators in trust HR departments and Occupational Health units
Thank You!

Thanks to all doctors in training who have supplied photos and contract details via their employing trust to allow their cards to be produced. This has been an ambitious project and remains, to our knowledge, the only national smart card scheme operating in the UK. As you continue to move around the NHS you will find NHS trusts looking at introducing new working practices to help smooth the pathway through induction so you can move more easily to treating patients in your care.

What next?

Please continue to keep your card up to date to create your full employment history electronically and to record any relevant changes in your health circumstances - this may be useful in easing your training progress and helping you apply for jobs in the future. This is your professional responsibility - to yourself, to your trust, and to the patients you treat. And remember – you can continue to use your card when you move to a consultant post or other NHS trust career grade post, or if you work occasionally as a hospital locum doctor. Doctors outside training and new to the NHS will soon also be able to apply for their own card to create their own personal data record to use when they move around the NHS, for example in locum work.

Who gains?

As we modernise medical training and expand the numbers of doctors working in the NHS, we need increasingly to harness modern technology to new work and personnel processes.

- **Doctors** can retain their personal data in a secure, up to date, reliable and consistent format.
- **NHS Trusts** can check that their doctors are fit and safe to work with patients. Their **OH Units** can free up their time to concentrate on providing better services for their customers in the NHS.
- **GMC** can serve their registered doctors better by speeding up registration and renewal processes.

GMC joins the OHSC scheme

The GMC has agreed to join the Smart Card scheme. From now on, all registration status details about doctors can be fed directly and securely into the Smart Card database.

This will help reduce the "paperchase" associated with induction sessions and will mean that your current and future employing trusts can be confident that you remain "fit to practice" in registration terms at all times.

The GMC’s partnership with the DoH will allow us shortly to extend the scheme to doctors coming to the UK from overseas, as well as continuing to cover those coming new to the NHS through the UK medical schools and postgraduate deanery training.

Further information and some FAQs can be found at [www.doh.gov.uk/occupationalhealth](http://www.doh.gov.uk/occupationalhealth) or e-mail barbara.levy@doh.gsi.gov.uk (National Programme Manager)

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