**Planning an absence from practice: recommended questions and actions**

The following checklist of questions is recommended to be used pre-absence, where possible, in order to help with the identification of issues and facilitate support planning. A copy of the completed checklist should be given to the doctor. A full version of the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges’ Return to Practice guidance is available at <https://www.aomrc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/Return_to_Practice_guidance_2017_Revison_0617.pdf>

1. How long is the doctor expected to be absent? (Is there any likelihood of an extension to this?)

2. Are there any training programmes (including mandatory training) or installation of new equipment due to take place in the doctor’s workplace in the period of absence? If so, how should the doctor become familiar with this on return?

3. How long has the doctor been in their current role? Is this relevant in determining their needs?

4. Will the doctor be able to participate in CPD or e-learning to keep up to date?

5. Will the doctor be able to participate in any keep in touch days or other means of keeping in touch with the workplace? If so, how will this be organised? This should also address how KIT days will be organised if the returner is returning to a different Board.

6. Does the doctor have any additional educational goals, during their absence?

7. What sort of CPD, training or support will be needed on the doctor’s return to practice?

8. Are there any funding issues related to question 6 which need to be considered?

9. Will the doctor be able to retain their licence to practise and to fulfil the requirements for revalidation?

10. Are there any issues relating to the doctor’s next appraisal which need to be considered? If so, the Responsible Officer/representative may need to be informed.

11. If the doctor is a trainee, how do they plan to return to learning?

12. What will be the doctor’s full scope of practice on their return?

13. If the doctor will be returning to a new role, what support relating to this will be needed, and how can the doctor prepare?