

Role Descriptions: Medical Support Worker and Emergency Registered Practitioner (Fast Track COVID-19)

In response to the unprecedented demand on general practice caused by the COVID-19 outbreak, NHS England has been working with GP leads, the RCGP and Health Education England to develop two additional roles within Primary Care.

The two new roles are:

- Medical Support Worker
- Emergency Registered Practitioner (Fast Track COVID-19) – to work as a GP with a restricted scope of practice

Both roles require the applicant to hold a Licence to Practise (which may have been restored by the GMC under emergency powers), to be included on the GP Register and to be included on the English Medical Performers List.

Medical Support Workers

The Medical Support Worker (MSW) role has been developed in recognition of the valuable skills and experience that are needed in the NHS COVID-19 emergency response. Within primary care settings the role has been designed for doctors who have medical experience but, due to a lack of recent experience in working in NHS General Practice, would be best suited to working within a clinical team under the supervision and delegated authority of a senior primary care practitioner.

MSWs will be fully inducted into the role, have a formal learning needs assessment and access to the training required to safely undertake the role.

The post is suitable both for doctors wishing to return to work solely to support the COVID-19 response, and doctors intending on applying for full inclusion in the Performers List at a future point. For doctors in the latter group, the MSW post offers the opportunity to practice and demonstrate Foundation level competencies which could be used as part of a portfolio development plan.

A job description for the MSW role is attached, along with a list of tasks that MSW may be asked to undertake.

This role is likely to be suitable for:

- GPs who left the English Medical Performer List five or more years ago and have not been working clinically and/or in a non-clinical primary care role since that time.
- GPs who are applying for, or who are in the assessment phase of, the Induction and Refresher (I&R) Scheme or International GP Recruitment Scheme

Emergency Registered Practitioner (Fast Track COVID-19 application)

In response to the unprecedented demand on general practice caused by the COVID-19 outbreak, NHS England has introduced a fast track process for joining the English Medical Performers List in

order to work as GP with a restricted scope of practice. This role is to be known as Emergency Registered Practitioner (Fast Track COVID-19) or ERP(FTC19).

Work undertaken by ERP(FTC19)s will be directed to meet the demands of the COVID-19 response, unless the GP applying for inclusion has already secured a placement with appropriate supervision in a primary care setting. In response to NHS England's need to direct resources, if your application to be included on the List is approved, your details will be passed to local workforce leads that are working with NHS England to coordinate the NHS response to the COVID-19 outbreak. The FTC19 application form enables GPs to outline their preferences for working in a specific service or area.

FTC19 applications will be assessed by NHS England and, where, necessary Health Education England. Once this review has taken place, and, if your application is approved, the type of work that you can undertake and whether any formal support or supervision arrangements are to be followed will be set out in the letter you will receive to confirm that you have been included on the English Medical Performers List.

The ERP(FTC19) role is likely to be suitable for:

- GPs who were included on the English Medical Performers List more than five years ago but have been working clinical in another setting since that time, or who have been undertaking a non-clinical role within primary care.
- GPs who are, or who were within the last five years, included on the Medical Performer Lists of Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man.
- GPs who have successfully completed Induction and Refresher (I&R) scheme or International GP Recruitment (IGPR) scheme assessments but have not been able to commence their placement yet.
- Ministry of Defence (MoD) GPs, if not already included on the English Medical Performers List
- Private GPs

Progression from an MSW role to an ERP(FTC19) role is encouraged, and an assessment form has been developed to facilitate this. Therefore any GP who joins the list as an MSW is welcome to apply to NHS England at a later stage to have their inclusion changed to that of ERP(FTC19).