# Concerns rise over GMC's handling of doctors' gender identity changes



Members of the public tend to be largely unaware of the General Medical Council (GMC), which serves as the primary regulator of medical practice in the UK. However, many will likely recognise a growing sentiment that the quality of care provided at local surgeries and hospitals is declining. This situation prompts questions about the factors contributing to the deterioration of the National Health Service (NHS) experience, particularly the role of regulation within the medical field.

Recent revelations highlight a significant change in the GMC's practices concerning doctors who change their gender identity. Critics are raising concerns regarding the GMC's policy that allows these medical professionals to have their past disciplinary records erased from public view. This shift was notably brought to light amidst the ongoing employment tribunal case involving Dr Beth Upton, a trans medic. Dr Upton has reportedly been assigned a new registration number, one of 62 medics to receive a different GMC number under similar circumstances.

The implications of this policy are significant for patients seeking medical advice or care. The GMC website provides a valuable resource for individuals wishing to investigate the professional histories of their healthcare providers. The platform acts as a repository of disciplinary records, where patients can ascertain if a doctor has faced serious complaints, allegations, or disciplinary actions in the past. This information serves as a vital tool for distinguishing between healthcare providers who are deemed safe and those who may carry risks due to past behaviours.

Concerns over the GMC's regulatory practices have broader implications for the public, especially as many patients rely on such records to make informed decisions about their healthcare providers. The transparency of a doctor's professional history is critical for patients to feel secure in their treatment and care. As discussions continue regarding the funding and overall effectiveness of the NHS, the performance and accountability of the GMC are increasingly scrutinised, prompting questions about the future landscape of medical regulation in the UK.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/General_Medical_Council> - This URL provides information about the General Medical Council's role in regulating medical practice in the UK, including maintaining a register of medical practitioners and ensuring standards of good medical practice.
* <https://www.rcseng.ac.uk/patient-care/surgical-staff-and-regulation/regulation-of-surgeons/> - This URL supports the regulation of surgeons by the General Medical Council, highlighting its role in maintaining standards and protecting public health.
* <https://www.gmc-uk.org/> - The GMC's official website offers resources for patients to investigate their healthcare providers' professional histories, which is crucial for transparency and informed decision-making.
* <https://www.nhs.uk/> - This URL provides information about the National Health Service (NHS), which is relevant to discussions about the quality of care and the role of the GMC in regulating medical professionals within the NHS.
* <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-of-health-and-social-care> - This URL relates to the Department of Health and Social Care, which is involved in discussions about NHS funding and effectiveness, impacting the GMC's regulatory practices.