



Have you thought about becoming a designated medical practitioner (DMP)?

The Mental Welfare Commission (the Commission) is recruiting DMPs to provide second opinions (mostly on T3 treatment certificates) on the treatment of patients under the Mental Health (Care and Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003 or Adults with Incapacity (Scotland) Act 2000.

In 2024-25 there were 2955 DMP requests. DMPs often made changes in the treatment plans of the patients that they assessed. We welcome consultant psychiatrists from all specialties and geographical areas in Scotland who meet the recruitment requirements to apply to become a DMP.

Benefits of being a DMP

- You will be doing meaningful and rewarding work of safeguarding patients' rights and ensuring that their treatment plans are appropriate.
- You can claim a fee of £228.97 per assessment plus mileage.
- You can claim a double fee if an assessment takes longer than four hours (includes consulting the patient and relevant people, travel time and time to complete the forms).
- Most assessments are face-to-face and some are remote assessments (by telephone or video conference).

DMP work is highly flexible. You can do the assessments in your own time, as many or as few each year as you wish in order to suit your schedule. You may be able to time-shift if your line manager out-with the Commission agrees. If you work less than full time, you can have a day (or more) each week dedicated for taking on DMP assessments or enjoying your time off-whatever you prefer!

There is prompt support from the Commission's administration team and Commission doctors if DMPs have queries or if the situation is complex. DMPs can email our administration team to indicate if there are periods where they do not wish to be contacted (due to annual leave or a busy spell), or email us to say that they would like more DMP work, so our administrative team can prioritise them for contacting.

Training will be provided at DMP induction and there will be annual seminars and updates. Training can be counted for continuous professional development (CPD) points subject to CPD peer group approval. We will do quality checks on DMP work including audits and provide feedback.

Testimonials from DMPs:

"DMP work is a really nice part of my job. It's a joy to do."

"You see patients with a variety of mental health conditions. You give a second opinion. The patients usually do not get upset with you. You protect and safeguard the patients' rights. It's meaningful and rewarding."

"DMPs are well supported. You just need to pick up the phone to the Mental Welfare Commission if there are issues. The admin team are lovely and you can have a collaborative discussion with a Commission doctor."

"The flexibility is great. You can do the work in your own time, and do more or less as you wish. The paperwork is easy and can be filled on a different day. It does not create a lot of paperwork."

"I have added DMP work to my discretionary point application."

"Doing second opinions is an opportunity to meet other mental health professionals around Scotland and learn about their practice, along with meeting patients, which is interesting."

"New skills can be learnt. It's a good way of gaining CPD hours."

"I thought the DMP work would be rewarding, which it has been so far."

Recruitment requirements for substantive consultant psychiatrists*

- possess MRCPsych or an equivalent qualification;
- be a Mental Health (Care and Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003 Section 22 Approved Medical Practitioner (AMP), registered with a health board and be on the local NHS list of approved medical practitioners;
- have at least three years of clinical experience in using the Mental Health Act as an Approved Medical Practitioner in Scotland (includes the experience gained during higher resident doctor training in Scotland);
- have full GMC registration and licence to practice for the duration of DMP work;
- demonstrate evidence of regular appraisals;
- be connected to a designated body and have a responsible officer;
- be in a CPD peer group and meet good standing of at least 50 hours of CPD per year;
- have a valid Disclosure Scotland Protecting Vulnerable Groups (PVG) certificate for adults (and children, if you plan to do DMP assessments for children in future after a successful application).

*We also welcome applicants who are locum consultant psychiatrists or experienced non-consultant grade psychiatrists (including Specialty and Associate Specialist Doctors) who meet the above requirements and who are used to working autonomously including prescribing and making treatment plans without the need for supervision. Psychiatry higher

resident doctors to please consider applying to become a DMP after they gain their Certificate of Completion of Training if they meet the above eligibility criteria. We may discuss the application with prospective applicants as part of the application process. DMPs will need to be able to discuss treatment plans with Responsible Medical Officers and be ready to challenge the plans if necessary. DMPs will need to have their own professional indemnity for DMP work.

Contact details

If you would like more information about DMP work or a discussion before applying, please contact Dr Dichelle Wong, Commission Consultant Psychiatrist for Safeguarded Treatments.

By email: dichelle.wong@nhs.scot

By phone: 0131 313 8777

If you would like to download the application pack, please see our website:

[Work with us | Mental Welfare Commission for Scotland \(mwcscot.org.uk\)](http://mwcscot.org.uk)

Scroll down and click on "Becoming a DMP".

Alternatively the application pack can be obtained from our administrative team directly:

By email: mwc.enquiries@nhs.scot

By phone: 0131 313 8777

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