

# Impact of Brexit decisions

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CEOM meeting – 7 June 2019

Working with doctors Working for patients

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# General Medical Council

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- We are the UK competent authority for doctors - an independent organisation that helps to protect patients and improve medical education and practice across the UK:
  - We decide which doctors are qualified to work here and we oversee UK medical education and training
  - We set the standards that doctors need to follow, and make sure that they continue to meet these standards throughout their careers
  - We take action when we believe a doctor may be putting the safety of patients, or the public's confidence in doctors, at risk

# Recruitment: Non-UK trained doctors joining the register

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**50%**

of all new doctors  
are non-UK  
graduates

Sudden increase of

**40%**

from outside the  
EEA in 2018

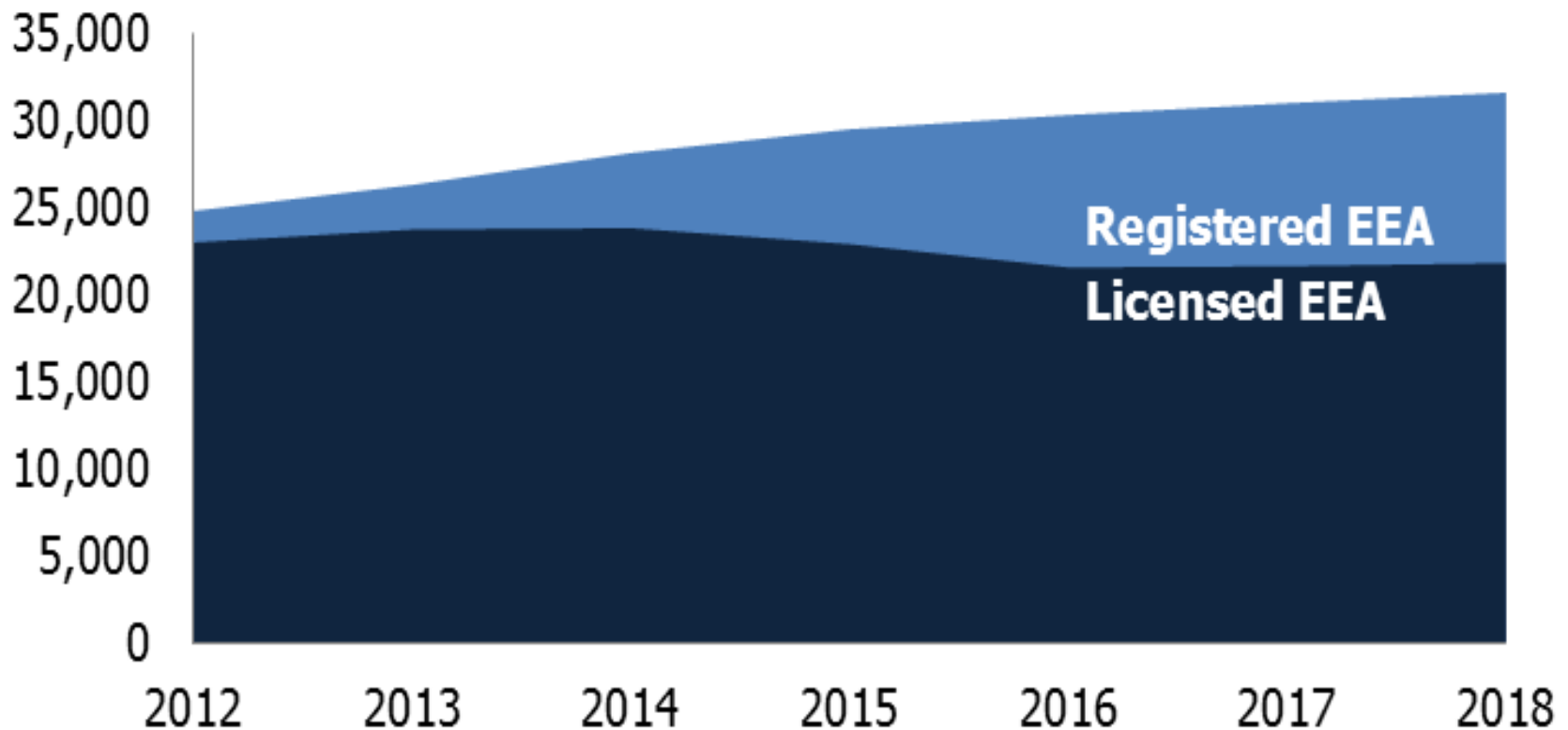
Around

**2000**

EEA qualified doctors per  
year coming to the UK and  
contributing to the NHS









# Number of EEA graduates on the UK medical register

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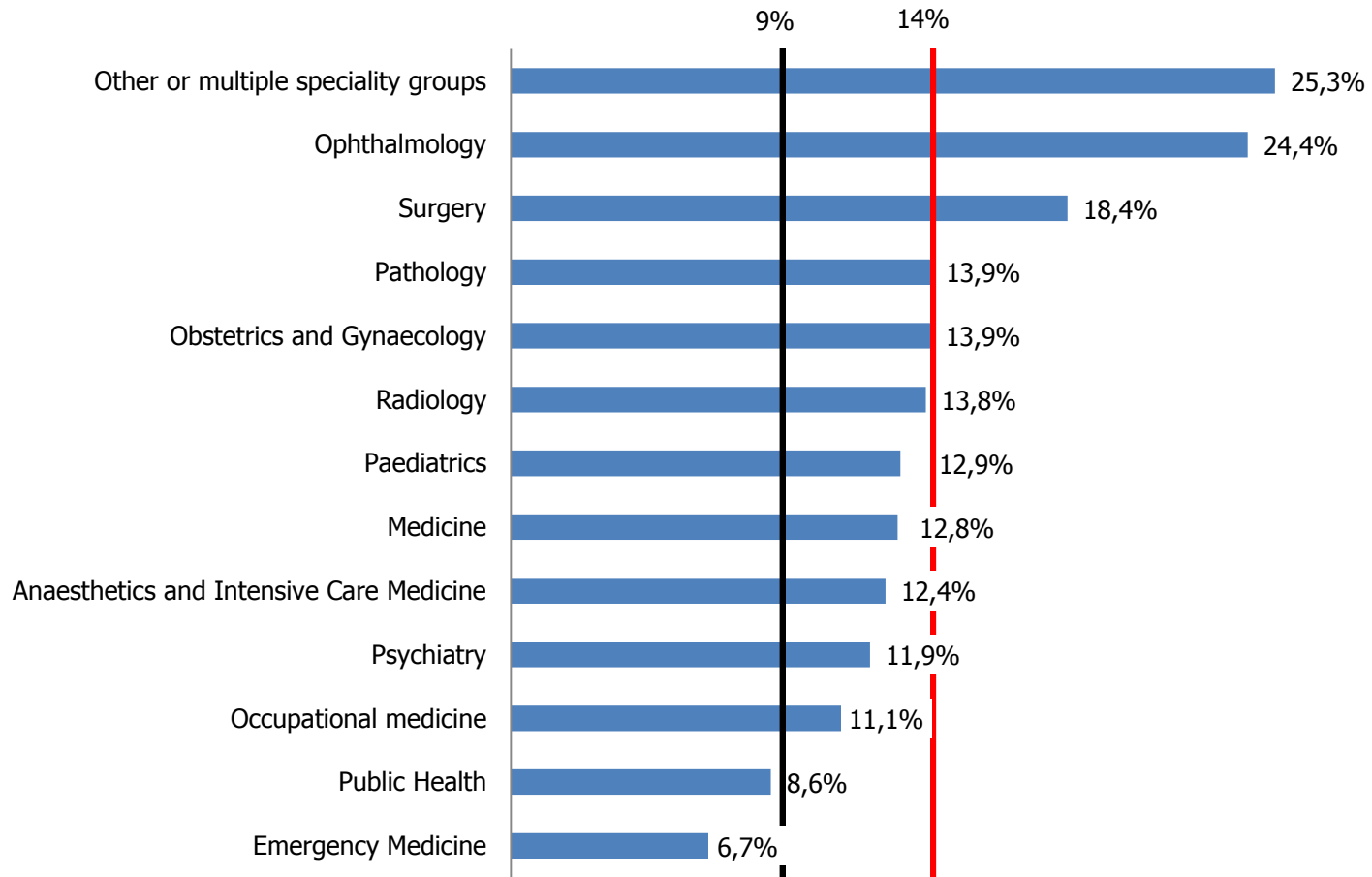


# Primary Medical Qualification by EEA country

30 June 2018

Rank	PMQ Country	Licensed Doctors
1	 Ireland	3,210
2	 Greece	2,444
3	 Romania	2,178
4	 Italy	2,162
5	 Germany	2,028
6	 Poland	1,776
7	 Spain	1,244
8	 Czech Republic	1,170
9	 Hungary	1,062
10	 Bulgaria	738

# Specialties with dependency on EEA graduates



# Planning for Brexit – GMC priorities

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- To minimise any risk to patient safety either due to workforce shortages or an inability to ensure that only doctors who are safe and fit to practise obtain registration
- To minimise any disruption in the supply of EEA graduates to the UK medical workforce – avoiding a cliff edge in the short term
- Improved information exchange with relevant European and international counterparts for both registration checks and sharing fitness to practise sanctions for doctors on the GMC register



# We welcome EEA doctors in the UK

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- It is essential that exiting the EU does not either deliberately or inadvertently deter the approximately 2,000 EEA qualified doctors who come here each year and contribute to the NHS
- Our health service benefits considerably from the contribution of overseas doctors and this has not changed because of the vote to leave the EU





# Potential Brexit scenarios

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## 1. **Withdrawal Agreement adopted – transition until 31 December 2020**

- Status quo for mutual recognition professional qualifications until end of 2020 – nothing changes
- UK remains part of the IMI system

## 2. **Withdrawal Agreement fails – 'no deal' Brexit' as of 31 October 2019**

- No mutual recognition of professional qualifications
- No access to IMI as of 31 October 2019

# Transition period – applications for recognition

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- In the event of the Withdrawal Agreement being adopted, a transition period will take place until 31 December 2020. In this scenario, our registration frameworks will largely remain the same during this period and we do not expect any major changes:
- *"Directive 2005/36/EC...shall apply in respect of ...any application for the recognition of professional qualifications introduced before the end of the transition period by Union citizens or United Kingdom nationals ..."*



# No deal - what is the UK planning?

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Medical Act amendments adopted by Parliament in early March:

- A new international medical graduate route for registration that covers all EEA qualifications (EU and EFTA)
- Applies to any primary or specialist qualification set out in Annex V of the RPQ Directive on 31 October 2019 – these will be recognised as evidence of knowledge, skill and experience regardless of the nationality of the holder
- Competent authorities can seek to remove this presumption of comparability for any qualification if there is evidence of a patient safety risk
- Removal of temporary & occasional registration
- System to be reviewed two years after coming into force

# No deal - what does the EU advise?

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The following will come into force either on 31 October 2019 if there is no Withdrawal Agreement, or at the end of the transition period if one is agreed:

- The withdrawal of the UK does not affect decisions on the recognition of professional qualifications obtained in the UK taken before the withdrawal date
- As of the withdrawal date, United Kingdom nationals will be 3<sup>rd</sup> country nationals. If they apply for recognition in an EU member state, it will be under the national process for assessing the qualifications of international doctors
- Qualifications obtained in the UK by EU nationals (other than UK nationals) as of the withdrawal date will be classed as 3<sup>rd</sup> country qualifications for the purpose of EU law
- BUT – each competent authority has the choice to continue to automatically recognise UK qualifications or to put a special regime in place for UK qualifications:

**\* Brexit will not change the length or content of UK medical education or training \***

## Looking ahead – GMC priorities

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- We want to ensure we can continue to exchange information on doctors who are erased or suspended
- We want to ensure that EEA qualified doctors still feel welcome in the UK
- We want the UK medical education and training system to remain attractive for EEA students



Any questions?

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