

GMC No:

August 2013

Dear

Distinction Award Holders – changes following a return to work after retirement

I am writing to draw your attention to a forthcoming change which will mean the discontinuation of the possibility of applying for reinstatement of a Distinction Award following a return to work after retirement. The position is summarised below in the attached extract from ACCEA's Guide for: National Award Applicants (new and renewal); Existing Award Holders.

*2.1.8 If you hold a **Distinction Award** and return to work within 12 months of retirement to the same post, or one substantially the same as that held when the Distinction Award was granted, you may be able to apply to have your award reinstated. Currently ACCEA has a requirement that you must be working a minimum of 4 PAs to have your award reinstated. You will also need to demonstrate that you continue to carry out excellent work, to the level of your existing award and that is comparable to successful applications for new awards at an equivalent level. You should submit a 'retire and return' application form within 12 months of retirement, which will be considered by a sub-committee of the main ACCEA that has been established specifically to consider these applications on a quarterly basis. Each case is judged on its own merits, but as a rule applications will only be approved exceptionally. The application form is available from the Secretariat. See 2.1.10.*

2.1.9 If your application is successful the award is subject to annual renewal and will be assessed alongside all other renewal applications and compared with the standard required for a new award at that or the equivalent level. Failure to submit a renewal application at the correct time will lead to your award being ceased. Awards will also be ceased if ACCEA judges there to be insufficient evidence in the application form for renewal. If this is the case, consultants will have a single opportunity to write to ACCEA to explain why they were unable to provide adequate evidence to support the continuation of their award. See 2.1.10.

2.1.10 Following consultation with stakeholders the Department of Health have asked ACCEA to change the business rules relating to the reinstatement of



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Distinction Awards following a return to NHS work after retirement. From 1 January 2014, consultants with Distinction Awards will no longer be able to apply for reinstatement of their award after retirement. In addition, any consultants who, in January 2014, hold a reinstated Distinction award following retirement will cease to receive this award from 31 March 2015. Retired consultants who are due to renew in the 2013 round will, if successful, have their award renewed until 31 March 2015 when it will cease. Consultants in this situation or consultants retiring and then returning to work after 1 January 2014 will be able to apply to re-enter the CEA Scheme or its successor as Clinical Excellence Award holders are currently able to (see 2.1.6 and 2.1.7).

In summary the position is

- There is a window up to 31 December 2013 for consultants who may be thinking of retiring and returning to NHS work to apply to have their Distinction Award reinstated. After that date no new applications will be accepted.
- Consultants who currently hold a reinstated Distinction Award will need to apply to renew it in the 2013 Round.
- No consultant will hold a reinstated Distinction Award after 31 March 2015.
- It is open to any retired Distinction Award holder who has returned to work to apply for a Clinical Excellence Award. The 2013 Round opened on 22 July and closes on Friday 27 September.

Please send any reply to the following email address

ACCEA.Secretariat@dh.gsi.gov.uk

Yours sincerely



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