

Principles for Managing the UK Medical Education Database (UKMED)

Introduction

The UK Medical Education Database (UKMED) is an important tool for understanding medical education progression, identifying systemic barriers, and supporting research about underrepresented groups in medicine. Hosted by the General Medical Council (GMC), UKMED aims to improve the quality of medical education in the UK.

Organisations Involved:

- General Medical Council (GMC)
- Medical Schools Council (MSC)
- Academy of Medical Royal Colleges (AoMRC)
- British Medical Association (BMA)

Agreed Principles:

1. **Safe Research:** Support the use of UKMED for safe and meaningful research while protecting data subject rights.
2. **Educational Improvement:** Promote continuous improvement in medical education standards to enhance patient care and safety.
3. **Unique Resource:** Recognise UKMED as a unique and comprehensive research database for medical education and training.
4. **Data Processing:** Acknowledge that UKMED processes data under the GMC's "public task," making consent inappropriate due to potential power imbalances.
5. **No Individual Decisions:** Ensure UKMED is never used to make decisions about individual data subjects.
6. **Privacy Safeguards:** Maintain appropriate safeguards to protect privacy, including pseudonymisation of personal data.
7. **Transparency:** Be transparent about the use of UKMED for research and inform individuals of their right to request a copy of their data.
8. **Data Protection Compliance:** Comply with UK data protection laws and inform individuals about their data processing and rights.
9. **Right to Erasure:** Ensure individuals can request the erasure of their personal data, with each request considered on a case-by-case basis, with input from relevant stakeholders where appropriate.
10. **Consider Subjects' Views:** Take data subjects' views into account when forming UKMED's research strategy.
11. **Ethical Research:** Adhere to relevant research ethics frameworks.
12. **Annual Review:** Review this statement of principles annually by the involved parties and the UKMED Advisory Board.