

## Examiner census 2013/14

The General Medical Council, requires the highest standards from all the clinicians who contribute to the development, delivery and governance of the Part 1 and Part 2 Written examinations and the 12 specialty certificate examinations.

The annual clinician census we carry out is crucial in demonstrating that we meet these standards. It also shows how we are progressing towards the goal of reflecting a diverse trainee and patient population.

This year, we invited all clinicians involved in the examinations to complete an online survey, including those based in the UK and at international centres. The survey opened at the beginning of March and ran until the end of June.

The results provide a reliable profile of our clinicians, who may be serving on examining boards, working as examiners in our clinical skills assessment, PACES, or writing or scrutinising questions and scenarios. The census asked clinicians about:

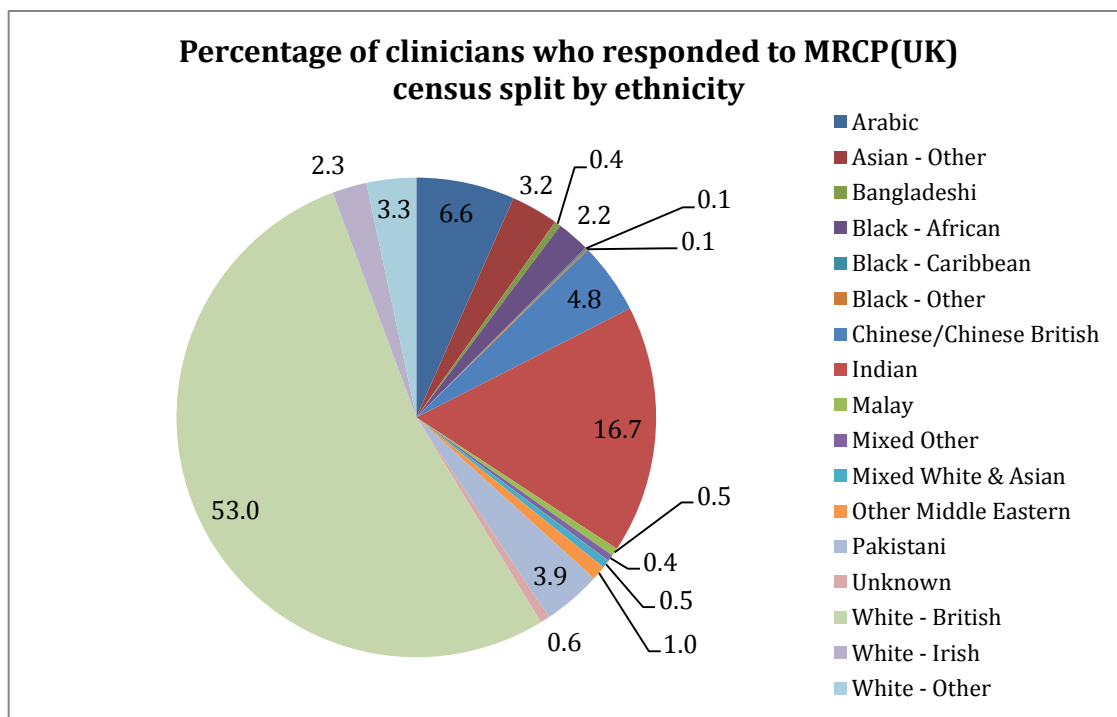
- their current role in supervising trainees
- whether their CPD and job appraisals are up to date
- if they have recently completed equality of opportunity (equality and diversity) training
- their current role in patient care.

We also asked PACES examiners whether they found it difficult to meet the minimum time commitment. In addition, the census collected data about ethnicity, to further the aim of ensuring that all of our examinations are fair and include no element of bias.

### Diversity

We asked these questions because we take equality and diversity issues very seriously, and have worked for some time to better understand the complexities in this area. Collecting and analysing relevant data is the best way to ensure that our processes are fair and equal.

The largest group in terms of ethnicity defined themselves as White British (53%). The remaining clinicians identified with other ethnic backgrounds, with the next most common responses being Indian (16.7%), Arabic (6.6%), and Chinese or Chinese British (4.8%). The pie chart below shows the proportion of clinicians and their self-declared ethnicity – this includes all clinicians involved within MRCP(UK) examinations.



### Professional standards

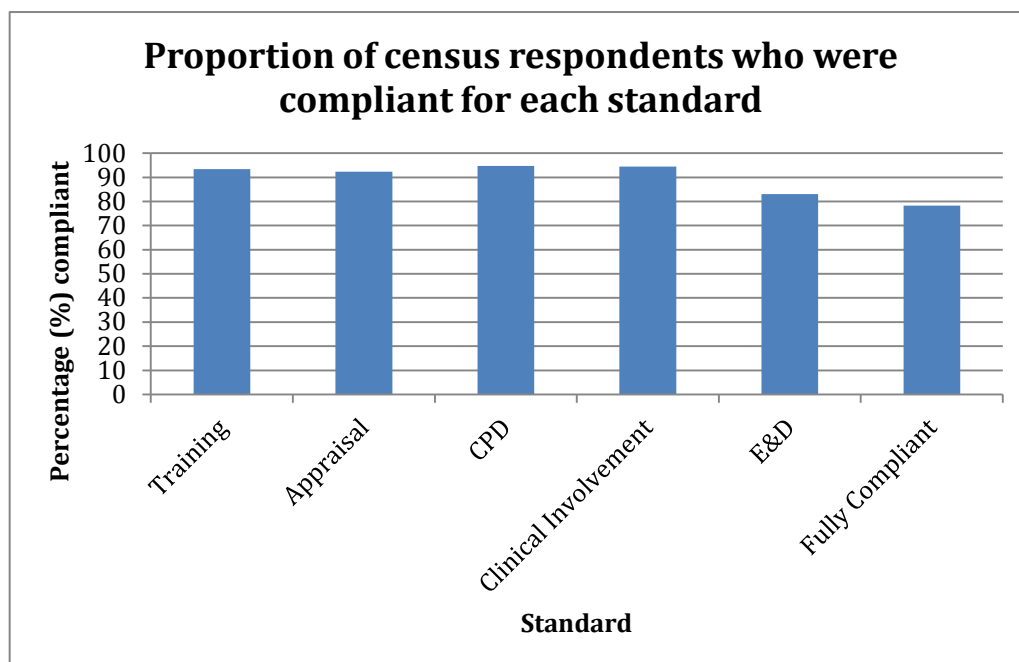
To keep the exams relevant to current clinical practice and training, all of our clinicians should be able to meet certain professional standards. In the census, more than 90% of respondents confirmed they:

- have been engaged in postgraduate medical training and supervision within the past two years
- are subject to an annual formal appraisal process in their current post
- are up to date with CPD as appropriate to their job plan
- have ongoing involvement in clinical medicine in inpatient or outpatient settings.

Another requirement is having current training in equality of opportunity and among all clinicians, this standard was met by 82.9%. There is easy online access to approved courses:

[www.doctors.uk.net](http://www.doctors.uk.net) (GMC registration number required) or [www.faculty.londondeanery.ac.uk/e-learning](http://www.faculty.londondeanery.ac.uk/e-learning) (no GMC number needed). Any clinicians who need to bring this training up-to-date are encouraged to complete one of these courses.

The graph below shows the proportion of clinicians (examiners and board members) who are compliant for each standard.



### PACES examining

We ask PACES examiners to commit to examining six cycles per year, averaged over two years. This is equivalent to examining 30 candidates per year, or a minimum of two to three days of examining annually. In the census, just over half of the examiners (approx 56%) felt able to meet this commitment.

A reasonable frequency is important to help clinicians keep their examining knowledge and skills honed and current. It is also essential for maintaining our capacity to offer the examination to all qualified candidates who wish to attempt it. The key is for our trained examiners to remain consistently active, and examine as often as they can.