

FAQ

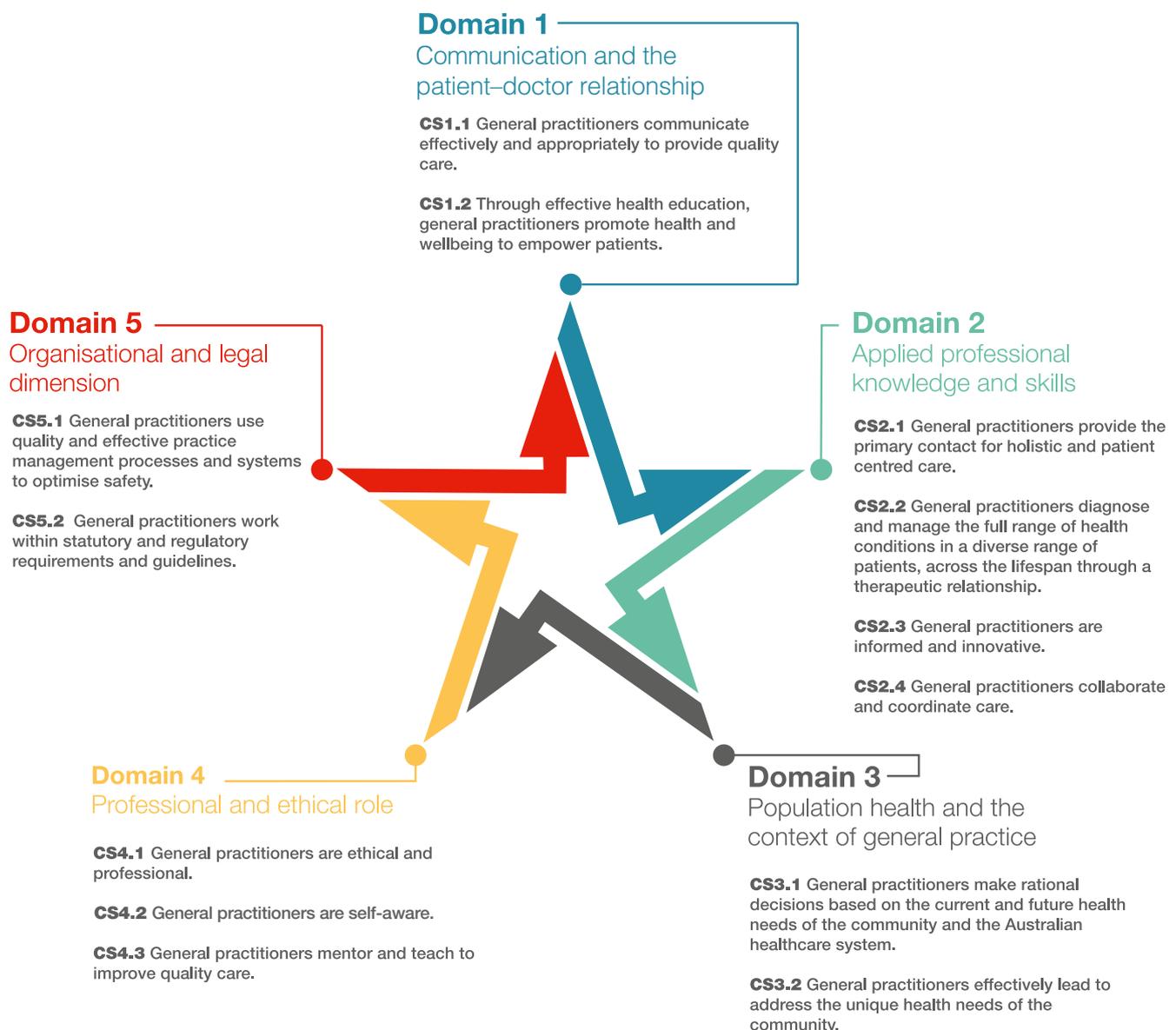
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



PODCAST WEBINAR

Teaching Professional and Ethical Practice

Where should we begin in teaching our registrars about professional and ethical practice?



Source: [RACGP](#)

General practice training is a composite of skill development, identifying and addressing unknown learning needs, and non-clinical areas of practice. A starting point in raising professional and ethical practice with your registrars is to help them understand that this is in fact an umbrella topic that has a key role in each of the areas of focus throughout their training in general practice.

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How should we define medical professionalism for our registrars?

'You know it when you see it'

- Where duty of care to patients is the primary concern.
- Mastery and maintenance of the knowledge, skills, and attitudes to practice medicine safely and effectively.
- Having a commitment to ethical practice.
- Having self-awareness and engaging in self-reflection.

Adheres to the collective identity of the medical profession.

Should we get our registrars to focus on concepts like the Physician's Charter?

The three fundamental principles of the [Physicians Charter](#) are valuable concepts for registrars to adopt, and inspire further additional reading:

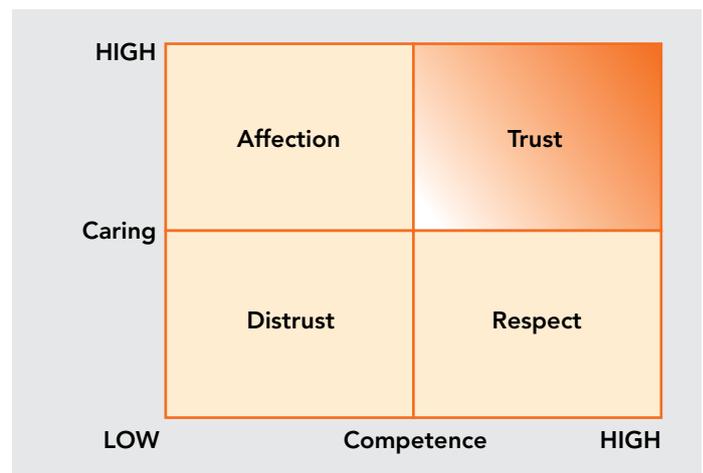
1. Primacy of patient welfare – altruism and serving the interest of the patient. Market forces, societal pressures, and administrative exigencies must not compromise this principle.
2. Patient autonomy - honesty with patients and empower them to make informed medical decisions, as long as those decisions are in keeping with ethical practice and do not lead to demands for inappropriate care.
3. Social justice - physicians' societal contract and distributive justice, including the fair distribution of health care resources not based on race, gender, socioeconomic status, ethnicity, religion, or any other social category.

What are the professional and ethical challenges in Australian general practice?

- Preservation of the patient-doctor relationship.
- Professional differences with other care providers.
- 'Truth-telling', 'bending rules' and trust.
- Ethically grey areas.
- Personal demands of ethical decision-making.

Further reading: [Ethics and professionalism in general practice placements: what should students learn?](#)

How do we address the matter of trust with our registrars?



It's a rare person that doesn't want others to like or respect them; but neither likeability nor skill is enough on its own in the matter of gaining someone's trust.

The best thing a supervisor can do for a registrar embarking on a career in general practice is to explain that what the patient needs from them is, in its simplest form, a high level of compassion combined with a high level of competence.

How can we assess professionalism in our registrars?

- Self-appraisal. – Self assessment resource.
- Multi source feedback.
 - Peers.
 - Patients.
 - Practice manager.
 - Practice nurse.
- Direct observation.
- Patient opinions.
- Case discussion.
- Random case analysis. - Random Case Analysis Template
- Scenario-based teaching. – GPSA Flash Cards

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Resources



All GPSA resources are available [here](#)

- GUIDE: [Teaching Professionalism in General Practice](#)
- [GPSA Scenario App](#)
- Medical Board of Australia '[Good Medical Practice – A Code of Conduct for Doctors in Australia](#)'
- [AMA Code of Ethics](#)
- [AMA A Guide to Social Media and Medical Professionalism](#)
- [Medicines Australia Code of Conduct](#)
- [MDA National articles](#)
- [AVANT Mutual articles](#)
- [ABIM Foundation. American Board of Internal Medicine; ACP-ASIM Foundation. American College of Physicians-American Society of Internal Medicine; European Federation of Internal Medicine. Medical professionalism in the new millennium: a physician charter. Ann Intern Med. 2002;136\(3\):243-246. doi:10.7326/0003-4819-136-3-200202050-00012](#)
- [Sturman N, Saiepour N. Ethics and professionalism in general practice placements: what should students learn? Aust Fam Physician 2014; 43:468-72.](#)
- [McCormack AI. A perfect storm: towards reducing the risk of suicide in the medical profession. Med J Aust. 2018;209\(9\). doi:10.5694/mja18.00221](#)

