



UK Public Health Register

User guide to Good Public Health Practice (2024)

About this document and who it is for

This UKPHR User guide to Good Public Health Practice (2024) explains how UKPHR uses the Good Public Health Practice (GPHP) framework, and the expectations it has of its registrants in relation to ensuring their practice complies with relevant standards. It applies equally to all UKPHR registrants:

- Public Health Specialists
- Public Health Specialty Registrars
- Public Health Practitioners.

UKPHR User guide to Good Public Health Practice replaces the UKPHR Code of Conduct, ensuring that all our requirements are now fully aligned to the Faculty of Public Health (FPH) revised Good Public Health Practice (2024) [document](#).

About Good Public Health Practice

Good Public Health Practice was first published, by the FPH, in 2002. Its purpose is to describe the required standards of practice for all registered public health professionals (registered specialists, specialty registrars, and practitioners) in the UK, regardless of whether they are registered with us, General Medical Council (GMC) or General Dental Council (GDC).

The Faculty of Public Health is the public health professional membership organisation; they lead on ensuring the guidance is continuously revised in line with developments in professional practice. The most recent changes to the framework were made effective on 1 December 2024 and UKPHR was integral to the efforts to update the document, ensuring that it remains relevant and appropriate for those registered with us.

GPHP defines public health practice as 'the science and art of promoting and protecting health and wellbeing, preventing ill health and prolonging life through the organised efforts of society', comprising of three domains: health improvement, health protection and healthcare public health. It includes three underlying functions: public health knowledge and intelligence; academic public health; and workforce development.

The framework can be accessed on FPH website [here](#).

Principles for application of the Good Public Health Practice

The framework is designed to:

- Assist the public, public health professionals, colleagues and employers to better understand what good practice in public health should look like.
- Promote and support good public health practice.
- Guide public health professionals when planning their continuing professional development (CPD).

- Act as a source document for public health professionals in preparing for appraisals and revalidation.
- Inform the framework within which public health professionals will be appraised and recommended for revalidation.
- Be a reference source whenever a person's registration or professional practice is called into question

Good Public Health Practice and UKPHR Code of Conduct

Until 30 November 2024, UKPHR used a UKPHR Code of Conduct in addition to the GPHP framework to set out all the principles a UKPHR registrant needs to follow. That document, created by us in 2013, complemented the previous editions of GPHP. It focused on the most salient points for UKPHR registrants and translated them into seven principles to support their work and decision-making.

The current GPHP addresses the seven principles fully and we have now adopted it as our key standards document. To ensure clarity, we decided to discontinue the use of the UKPHR Code of Conduct This guide puts an emphasis on how and when the GPHP framework applies to UKPHR registrants and to our processes.

Good Public Health Practice and minimum knowledge and practice standards

The Good Public Health Practice is a high-level document, outlining expectations of knowledge and practice for *all* public health professionals. There are also more detailed standards documents outlining the minimum practice and knowledge standards for individuals working at different levels of professional registration, which are more specific:

- **Public Health Specialists** are expected to have met the competencies outlined in the [FPH Public Health Specialty Training Curriculum 2022](#). There are 89 competencies across nine key areas. Those who apply to UKPHR through the [Specialist Registration by Portfolio Assessment](#) (SRbPA) are assessed against these competencies, and all **Public Health specialty Registrars** will be working towards meeting these competencies.
- In order to gain **Public Health Practitioner** registration with UKPHR, individuals must demonstrate that they meet the [UKPHR Registration Standards 2018 for Public Health Practitioners](#). There are 34 core standards that constitute minimum training standard required for safe and effective public health practice. These standards apply whether practitioners register via [the apprenticeship or the portfolio route](#).

Good Public Health Practice and UKPHR registrants

All UKPHR registrants are required to be familiar with and understand the Good Public Health Practice – regardless of their registration type, job title, scope or level of practice. The framework outlines the threshold expectation of all our registrants to assure appropriate professional behaviours.

The four domains

The four domains of Good Public Health Practice list behaviours universally expected of all our registrants: Public Health Specialists, Public Health Practitioners and Specialty Registrars.

The guidance lists 54 professional standards, and is divided into four domains:

- A: Knowledge, skills and development**
- B: Patients, partnership and communication**
- C: Colleagues, culture and safety**
- D: Trust and professionalism**

You should use Good Public Health Practice to apply the standards to your day-to-day public health practice. The standards are not a checklist, nor do they cover all possible practice scenarios - this means working out how the professional standards are relevant to your circumstances, role, and settings.

Dual registrants

UKPHR registrants can come from a variety of backgrounds and many of them are registered with other organisations – statutory regulators such as GMC, GDC or NMC and membership bodies. We refer to those registered with another regulator as ‘dual registrants’.

You normally would be expected to follow professional standards for both organisations you are registered with, and follow the relevant standards appropriate to the work and the setting you are practicing in.

When interacting with UKPHR processes such as CPD, revalidation or re-registration, you need to ensure your activities align with the Good Public Health Practice. You should seek advice from your other regulator when interacting with their mandatory registration processes.

Other regulators and their standards

Public health professionals must consider their professional behaviours in context of GPHP framework, the [Nolan Principles](#) and any other professional codes that may be applicable to them, particularly if they are registered with other regulators, such as GMC, GDC, NMC etc.

The GPHP purposefully aligns with other healthcare professional standards and the Civil Service Code or Business Conduct, so UKPHR registrants should never be put in a situation where they are working towards conflicting standards. It is the registrant’s responsibility to ensure familiarity with all applicable standards and consider them in the context of their practice.

Good Public Health Practice and UKPHR processes

UKPHR adopted the Good Public Health Practice as our overarching set of standards for all public health professionals registered with us. The framework does not constitute statutory guidance, rather it clearly outlines our expectations of practice for all UKPHR registrants and can be used if registration or professional practice is questioned.

The standards are the basis of a number of UKPHR processes, such as:

- Application for registration process – all minimum knowledge and practice standards (as described above) are linked to Good Public Health Practice. All UKPHR applicants are expected to declare that they meet the GPHP standards in order to register, regardless of the application route they have chosen.
- Annual Renewal, Re-registration, and Revalidation processes – our registrants must comply with the standards and make a declaration annually and every five years upon re-registration or revalidation confirming this to remain registered.
- Fitness to practice (FtP) – when concerns are raised about our registrants, the standards serve as a reference outlining the threshold expectation of good public health practice. Not every departure from the standards is considered as serious ‘enough’ to result in an FtP process. We will always first consider aspects such as the seriousness of the concern, its context, related risk and what remedial action has been taken. The framework also guides us in our decisions about when to share information about active FtP investigations with other regulators. More information about our fitness to practice process can be found [here](#).
- We also use the GPHP framework as a basis for our policies relating to registration, such as UKPHR Whistleblowing policy or UKPHR Language requirements policy. You can view our key policies [here](#).

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