



الهيئة النقابية للأطباء السودانيين

بالمملكة المتحدة

SUDAN DOCTORS' UNIONS

U.K. BRANCH

26/06/2020

Mr Charlie Massey
Chief Executive and Registrar
General Medical Council (GMC)
Regent's Place
350 Euston Road
London
NW1 3JN

**Re: Stranded Sudanese doctors with cancelled PLAB-2 exams
 due to the COVID-19 pandemic**

Dear Mr Massey,

A number of Sudanese doctors, who have come to the UK for the purpose of sitting the PLAB2 examination, have been in touch with the GMC recently with regards to the cancellation of their exams due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We sincerely appreciate all the efforts made by the GMC so far to try to reach those stranded doctors and update them in relation to new dates for their PLAB2 exams. Indeed, the GMC has indicated in their website that the PLAB2 exams might be done in autumn later this year:

<https://www.gmc-uk.org/registration-and-licensing/join-the-register/plab/coronavirus---information-for-plab-candidates/plab-2>

As a result, we would like to highlight the following points:

1- The Sudanese doctors (attached list), who are affiliate members of the Sudan Doctors' Union - UK branch (SDU-UK), contacted us to represent them and further clarify matters regarding their PLAB2 exams. As such, we request that your records and website are updated to reflect this.

2- Due to the difficult circumstances these stranded doctors have been through during the COVID-19 lockdown, we request that they all get offered their subsequent PLAB2 sitting free of charge. We are grateful that some doctors with similar circumstances (but not all) have already received this offer.

3- The group has expressed their willingness to take the PLAB2 exam as soon as possible, therefore, we request kindly that they are granted the earliest places available in the upcoming PLAB2 sitting which is due to be taken in the Autumn season of this year. It would be highly appreciated if the SDU-UK could be informed as soon as the new dates for PLAB2 are set. This will help the SDU-UK better assist the doctors concerned with this matter.

4- We would like to make you aware that a support letter was also submitted to the Home Office by the SDU-UK requesting an extension of their visas in order to allow them to stay in the UK until they have completed their PLAB2 exams.

5- As the group may need to apply for a visa extension, we would appreciate it if all doctors listed below are sent support letters from the GMC addressed to the Home Office. This will facilitate granting of visa extensions for these doctors by the Home Office.

6- A considerable number of these doctors have had adequate postgraduate clinical experience and some of them have successfully passed one or two parts of the Royal Colleges exams. In the absence of fully confirmed dates for PLAB2, and in view of the pressure imposed on the NHS due to the COVID-19, we urge the GMC to consider an alternative pathway for provision of GMC registration taking into consideration the individual experience of each doctor.

We are looking forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours sincerely,

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