

Transition to the New SMSB Outcome-Based Curricula

(Alignment with GMC Excellence by Design)

SMSB can transition rapidly to outcome-based curricula using a unified national framework.

How the Transformation Is Enabled:

- **Unified national format** applied across all specialties:
 - Curriculum structure
 - Logbook
 - Program of assessment
 - SMSB unique electronic portfolio (ePortfolio)
- Ensures **standardization, comparability, and governance assurance** across SMSB programs
- Existing SMSB specialty curricula and syllabi can be efficiently mapped and converted into the new outcome-based design within 3–4 working days per specialty.

The transition to outcome-based curricula by using a unified curriculum and assessment framework, existing SMSB specialties can be rapidly transformed, ensuring timely alignment with international standards.

strategic comparison between current SMSB postgraduate curricula and the GMC Excellence by Design standards, and to highlight the strategic implications for curriculum reform and governance

Executive Comparison and Strategic Implications			
Domain	Current SMSB Approach	GMC <i>Excellence by Design</i>	Strategic Implication for SMSB
Curriculum Philosophy	Time-based training progression	Outcome-based progression	Transition required to ensure defensible, performance-based certification
Training Duration	Fixed duration	Flexible duration linked to progress	Enables recognition of excellence while maintaining patient safety
Learning Outcomes	Inconsistently defined	Clearly defined Capabilities in Practice (CiPs)	Requires national definition of consultant-level outcomes

Assessment Framework	No integrated assessment program	Robust program of assessment	Necessitates a unified national assessment framework
Workplace-Based Assessment	WBAs inconsistently applied	WBAs explicitly defined and mapped	Standardization required for national comparability
Primary Assessment Tool	No holistic judgement tool	Trainer's Report (TR) as primary WBA	Strengthens professional judgement and reduces assessment burden
Professional Capabilities	Generic skills variably assessed	Generic Professional Capabilities (GPCs) embedded	Aligns SMSB graduates with international professional standards
Trainee Monitoring	Irregular reviews	Structured, regular monitoring	Requires formalized national supervision cycles
Educational Supervision	Limited standardization	3-monthly Learning Agreement meetings	Clarifies trainer accountability and strengthens governance
Progression Decisions	Variable and non-transparent	Evidence-based ARCP decisions	Improves transparency, fairness, and defensibility
Governance & Credibility	Limited external benchmarking	International regulatory alignment	Enhances national and international credibility of SMSB certification

ARCP: Annual Review of Competence Progression

Executive Take-Home Message:

Transitioning from a time-based to an outcome-based curriculum aligned with GMC Excellence by Design will strengthen training quality, improve transparency of progression decisions, and align SMSB postgraduate education with internationally recognized standards.

Recommended Board Actions:

1. Approve transition to outcome-based curricula across all specialties
2. Mandate development of national Capabilities in Practice (CiPs) and GPCs.
3. Endorse a unified national program of assessment, centered on Trainer Reports
4. Support digital enablement (ePortfolio, WBAs, ARCP dashboards) to ensure scalable implementation.