

# PRESS RELEASE



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## **DOCTORS MUST DELEGATE TASKS APPROPRIATELY, WARNS MDDUS**

With healthcare assistants (HCAs) being expected to carry out an increasing range of tasks – such as administering swine flu vaccines – GPs must take care when delegating such activity, warns the Medical and Dental Defence Union of Scotland (MDDUS).

This issue is being highlighted by MDDUS after recently receiving regular requests for advice about the role of HCAs.

MDDUS reminds GPs that they remain responsible for the overall care of the patient when delegating tasks to HCAs, and will be accountable for that decision.

Dr Anthea Martin, senior medical adviser with the UK-wide MDDUS, says: "GPs are reminded that when delegating activities to HCAs they must follow GMC guidance."

The GMC states: "When a doctor delegates care of treatment they must be satisfied that the person to whom they delegate has the qualifications, experience, knowledge and skill to provide the care or treatment involved."

The GMC rules also say that the GP must always pass on enough information about the patient and treatment they need.

Dr Martin adds: "Overall MDDUS warns that GPs must take care to delegate tasks appropriately, and in accordance with GMC guidelines."

Ends

For further information contact Colin Calder on 0141 616 2677 or 07850 510881.

### **Note to editors**

MDDUS is a medical defence organisation providing access to professional indemnity and expert medicolegal advice for doctors, dentists and other healthcare professionals throughout the UK. For further information on MDDUS go to [www.mddus.com](http://www.mddus.com).