

# General Medical Council submission of 27 February 2024

## PE2061/D: Require solicitors to ensure capacity of vulnerable individuals by having a medical professional co-sign legal documents

We thank the Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee for the opportunity to comment on PE2061: Require solicitors to ensure capacity of vulnerable individuals by having a medical professional co-sign legal documents.

The General Medical Council (GMC) is the independent regulator of doctors in the UK. We work with doctors, patients, and other stakeholders to support good, safe patient care. We set the standards doctors and those who train them need to meet and help them achieve them.

The GMC would not take a position on whether or not such a change should take place. However, doctors may already be asked to conduct a formal capacity assessment to ascertain whether a patient may lack capacity to make certain decisions (particularly if the decision could be life-changing or have far-reaching consequences, which might be the case for complex financial decisions). As per [paragraph 2 of 'Good medical practice'](#), doctors must work within the limits of their competence, and so we would not expect them to make assessments about the capacity of their patients to make financial decisions if they felt unable to do so.