

# The UK Medical Education Database (UKMED) - data for workforce planners

## Objectives

The creation of a database that tracks students from medical school through to their completion of postgraduate training and a process for researchers to access datasets that fully complies with data protection requirements.

## Method

Data extracts are obtained from multiple sources including: Higher Education Statistics Agency student records, the ORIEL system for applying for postgraduate training, databases used to administer postgraduate training programmes, royal college databases containing exam results and payroll databases detailing doctors' employment. Processes are in place to link these data and ensure all records have the correct ID. Researchers are able to augment the data by arranging for their own data to be added to UKMED.

## Results

UKMED is the first attempt to systematically link data on medical students, including the tests and educational attainment used to allocate their places at medical school with their subsequent postgraduate training including the specialties applied to and the progress made in their training as measured by royal college exams and the Annual Reviews of Competence Progression.

UKMED is extended every year with additional records from existing data suppliers and new datasets. Figure 1 shows that data held as at March 2018.

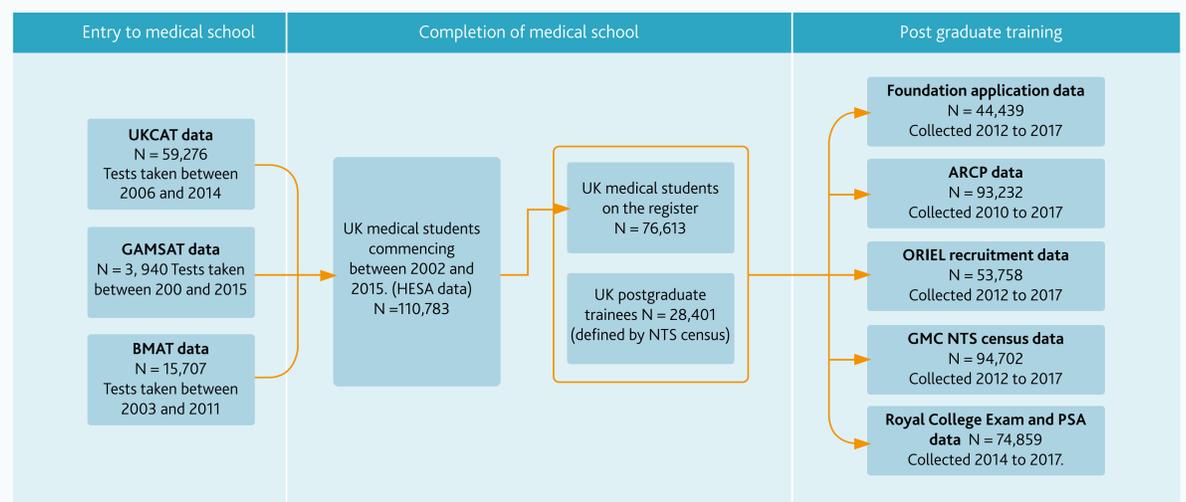
Finally using data from payroll such as the NHS Electronic Staff Record, UKMED can report on which doctors work as independent practitioners, whether they work as locums or in substantive posts and where they work. As these are live data, they are not included in Figure 1. Publications using UKMED are starting to emerge – examples are given in Figure 2. Information on how to access UKMED data is given in Figure 3.

## Conclusions and next steps

UKMED has the potential to evaluate the impact of initiatives such as the additional 1,500 medical school places that will be made available in England from 2019, in particular whether the additional places alleviate recruitment to under filled specialties and geographies.

To get in touch please go to - <https://www.ukmed.ac.uk/contacts/new>

Figure 1 - Summary of UKMED available data March 2018

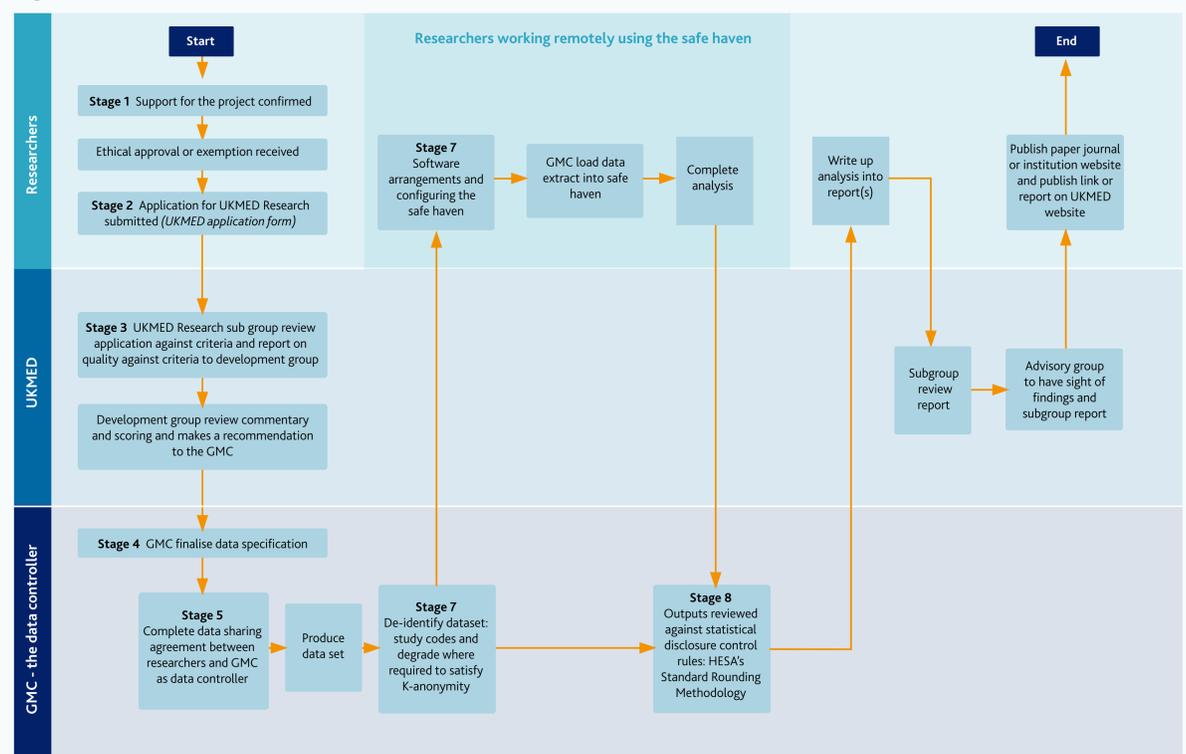


N are cases with data, not total data points. More detail available from the coverage tool here: <https://www.ukmed.ac.uk/research>

Figure 2 - UKMED published research at March 2018

Title	Key findings
<b>The relationship between school type and academic performance at medical school: a national, multi-cohort study</b>	Students from state-funded schools were almost twice as likely (OR=2.01, 95% CI 1.49 to 2.73) to finish in the highest rank of the UK Foundation Programme's educational performance measure (EPM) decile ranking than those who attended independent schools.  This suggests that when students from independent and state schools enter with similar pre-entry grades, once in medical school, students from state-funded schools are likely to outperform students from independent schools.
<b>Factors associated with junior doctors' decisions to apply for general practice training programmes in the UK: secondary analysis of data from the UKMED project</b>	The odds of applying to GP training were associated with particular demographic factors (being female, non-white or secondary educated in the UK increased the odds of application) and educational factors (non-graduate entry, intercalation and above-median academic performance during medical school all decreased the odds of application). After adjusting for these factors, both the medical school and the foundation school attended were independently associated with the odds of applying to GP training.  The findings suggest that the supply and demand imbalance in UK primary care might be improved by (1) efforts to attract greater numbers of female, non-white and UK secondary-educated students into medical schools, and (2) targeting resources at medical and foundation schools that deliver doctors likely to fill significant gaps in the workforce.

Figure 3 - the UKMED research flowchart



For details please see <https://www.ukmed.ac.uk/research>