

Definition of a Group Practice
Issued by the Board on 1 July 2010
Supersedes Revision 12 August 2005

With effect from **1 September 2010** a group practice will only be recognised by the **Board** if it:

1. comprises a minimum of three forensic pathologists drawn from the **Register**. (A forensic pathologist can be a “full member” of only one practice but may work for other practices as an associate) who have signed the protocol for membership of the **Register**. For the avoidance of doubt, an associate can (in the discretion of the **Board**) be counted as one of the three required members of a **Group Practice**
2. has signed a contract or Memorandum of Understanding with at least one police force in England and Wales and which provides copies of all memoranda of understanding to the **Board**
3. satisfies the **Code of Practice**
4. has a “rota coordinator” with responsibility for scheduling forensic pathologists rotas ensuring that there are at least 3 members of the **Register** on the rota and that there is an equitable distribution of rota time between the forensic pathologists on the rota
5. is committed to undertake (subject to demand) at least 180 cases in any 12 month period.
6. meets storage requirements as agreed by the **Board**.
7. is committed to ensuring that for each case a preliminary report is supplied to the coroner and Senior Investigating Officer within 14 days of the autopsy.
8. complies with the **Board**'s requirements for Critical Conclusions Checking, audit and appraisals
9. ensures that all staff with access to draft reports on images relating to forensic pathology have the appropriate security clearance
10. discloses to the **Board** annually its strategy for short medium and long-term workforce planning (including recruitment, retention and succession planning)

Where police, pathologists and coroners all wish to change the group practice boundaries a joint application should be made to the **Board** to do so.