
**Background:** Denmark and Ireland are similar in terms of population size, medical practice and infrastructure. Both also have populations of newly qualified GPs that can often feel overwhelmed as they move from being GP trainees to qualified GPs. As Davies et al. describe in *The New GP’s Handbook*, this process can feel like “falling off a cliff”.

**Ireland:** For ten years, within the Irish College of General Practitioners (ICGP), Ireland has had a formal support structure for establishing GPs, the Network of Establishing General Practitioners (NEGs). In 2008, four years after NEGs was set up, and with limited consultation, a handbook for establishing GPs, *Signposts to Success*, was published in hard copy. The content is therefore fixed from the time it was published. Since 2008, there has been rapid change within Irish healthcare and General Practice. Despite being of great value, *Signposts to Success* has become outdated.

**Denmark:** In contrast to Ireland, the Danish College of General Practitioners (DSAM) adopted a very different approach, publishing an interactive electronic PDF handbook for newly qualified GPs, *Praksis Plus*. This followed extensive consultation with establishing GPs within DSAM, including the holding of focus groups. The end result was a dynamic interactive multimedia electronic book which can be easily and efficiently kept up to date.

**Summary and Conclusions:** A national handbook for Establishing GPs is a highly valued and extremely useful resource. Having compared methods used in Denmark and Ireland, understanding the processes involved, and observing how quickly such resources can become out of date, the authors recommend using the following series of standardised steps to create a resource. 1) Conduct an extensive needs analysis amongst Establishing GPs. 2) Create high quality content using a variety of media including text and video. 3) Use experts to ensure high quality of both content and production. 4) Use an interactive electronic format for publication. 5) Keep the handbook up to date.