Medical Workforce

Report to JSC, RCP

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This report is based on the 2006 Consultant Census, Deanery Data and Notifications of Consultant Job vacancies to the BMJ & HPA KC60 data

General Observations
Minimal increase in overall consultant physician numbers (across all specialities) in UK in 2006 (1.8%, [England 1.6%, Scotland 2.8%, Wales 3.2%]). Lowest rate of increase since survey first conducted in 1989. Reductions in certain specialties (Dermatology, Rheumatology & ID)

12 (39%) out of 31 advertised posts failed to appoint for GUM.cf 25% for all specialties

Consultant workforce

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<th>England</th>
<th>Wales</th>
<th>NI</th>
<th>Scotland</th>
<th>UK</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total number</td>
<td>288</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>315</td>
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In the UK 15.6% of respondents reported working part-time.

Consultant workforce expansion 1997 – 2006 (E, W & NI)

There has been a steady expansion in the consultant workforce. The rate of expansion is, however, falling.

In England, Wales & Northern Ireland the rate of expansion between 2005 and 2006 was 1.4% (cf 1.7% for all specialties). This represents 9.9% expansion since 2001 (cf 29.9% overall for all specialties)
The average numbers of contracted PAs worked per week was 10.4 [11.4 for whole time(WT) consultants and 6.8 for less than WT]

**Services provided and consultant expansion**

![Graph showing consultant numbers and average no. of services provided per consultant](image)

In 1997 there were 1530 services provided per consultant. In 2007, this had increased to 5737 per consultant.

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**Consultant/SpR workforce**

The GU medicine (HIV / AIDS) consultant workforce in 2006 was 59.7% male. This compares to an SpR workforce which is only 26.8% male (n=42). Approximately 18% of SpRs are currently known to be training flexibly. However a recent survey of GUM SPRs in 2007 revealed that only 53% plan to work a full-time 10 PA consultant contract. Another survey asking trainees on what would make posts outside bigger centres attractive to them, trainees indicated that links to larger centres with the ability for them to undertake HIV or other specialist clinics would make posts more attractive.
Consultants Reaching Age of 65 in the next 10 Years

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A total of 80 consultants will reach the age of 65 within the next 10 years.

AAC Posts Advertised & Posts Unfilled
12 (39%) out of 31 advertised posts failed to appoint for GUM.cf 25% for all specialties

Summary

- There were 315 consultants in the UK in 2006.
- Expansion in consultant numbers are slowing and do not reflect workload and STI diagnoses.
- A recent survey indicated that 53% intended to work a less than 10PA contract.
- Modernisation initiatives within GUM/HIV services have greatly increased the workload overseeing per consultant.
- Government strategies to widen STI care in primary care will require a consultant workforce to provide the appropriate clinical governance.
- Posts in smaller centres which may be more difficult to fill could be made more attractive by linking them to larger centres for HIV or other specialist clinics e.g genital dermatology.