

The state of medical education and practice in the UK: 2012

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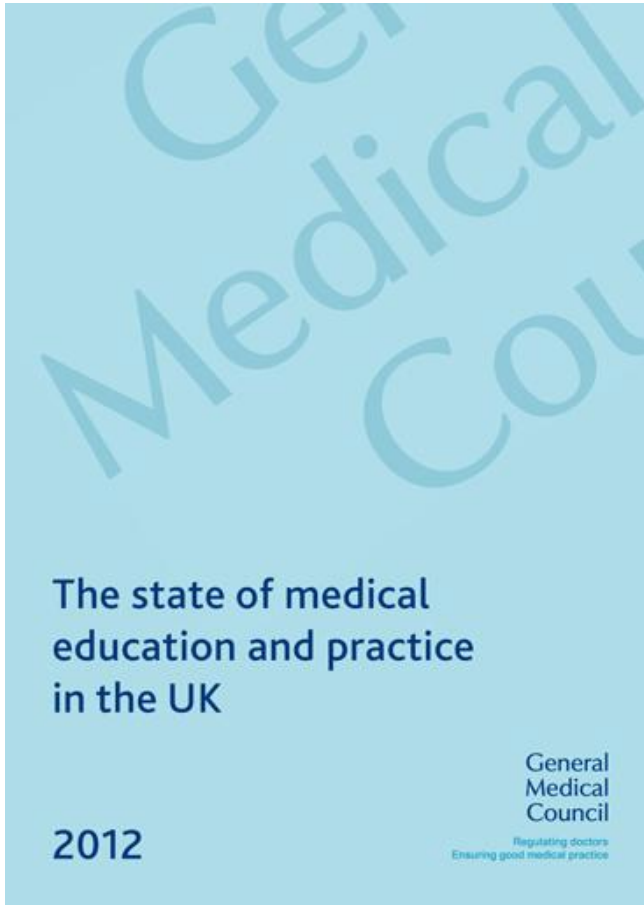
European and International Policy Officer

CEOM meeting – 30 November 2012

General
Medical
Council

Regulating doctors
Ensuring good medical practice

A different type of report



- Not a report about the GMC
- Report about the profession we regulate
- Evidence based – uses our data and other sources
- Reflects our ambition to understand, learn from and disseminate data and resulting analysis – feed in to a wider debate
- Reflects our ambition to engage with the profession, employers, educators and patients

A profession facing challenges

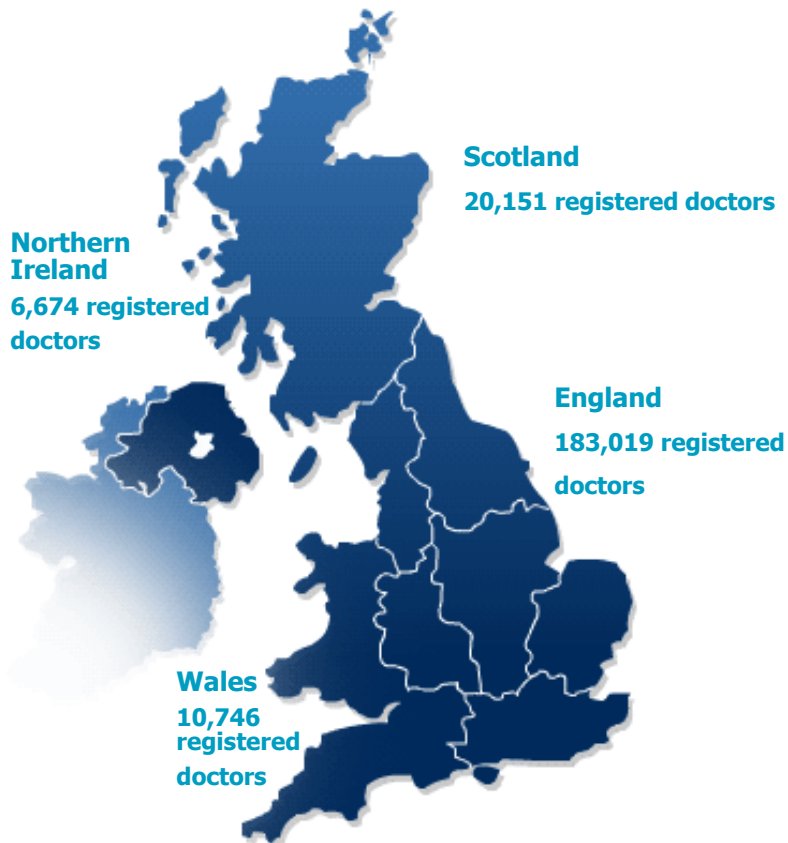


The Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust Inquiry

Independent Inquiry into care provided by
Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust:
January 2005 - March 2009
Chaired by Robert Francis QC

- Financial pressure on services and in England major reforms
- Working time regulations and patterns of work
- Technological advances
- Patient profile and expectations
- Evidence of variations in standards
- Evidence of poor care of the vulnerable
- Wider discussion about what it means to be a doctor and what is expected from the 21st century professional

The medical profession in the UK 2011



- 245 000 doctors – 230 000 with a licence
- Average age 39 Peak age 35
- 10% EU trained 27% IMGs
- Women doctors up 4.7% in 2011
- More UK graduates than ever
- More ethnically diverse than UK population
- 2.7 doctors per 1000 population (OECD 3.1 per 1000)
- 71,307 on the Specialist Register
- 61,156 doctors the GP Register`

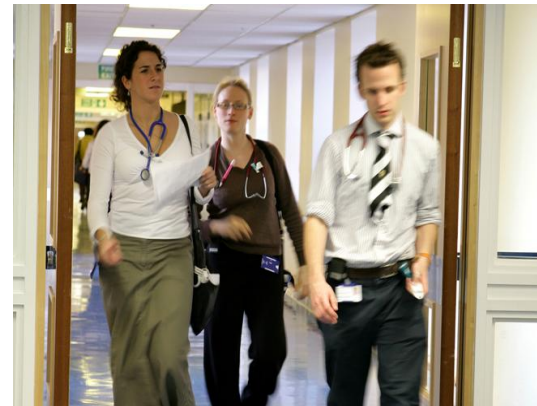
The medical profession in the UK 2011

Gender

- Number and proportion of female doctors continues to grow
- Number of female doctors expected to exceed that of male doctors between 2017 and 2022
- More flexible training and working patterns needed
- Differences in career progression for men and women

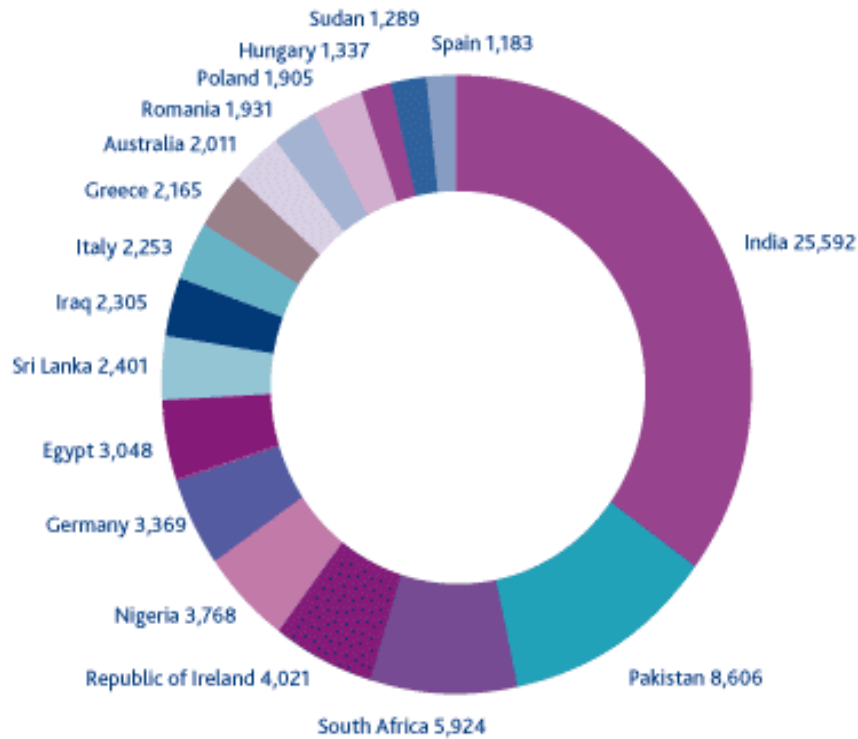
Medical education and training

- Medical students continue to come from higher socioeconomic groups
- Concerns about demand for foundation training and consultant posts
- Distribution of doctors across medical specialities



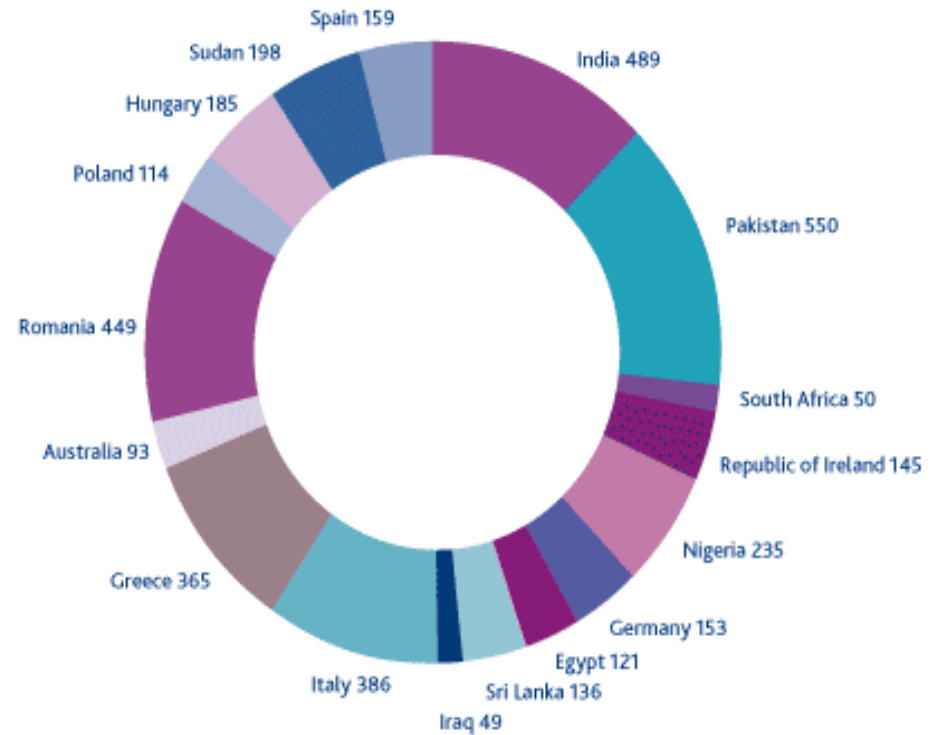
Changes in the make up of the profession

Number of doctors from countries with over 1,000 doctors on the register in 2011

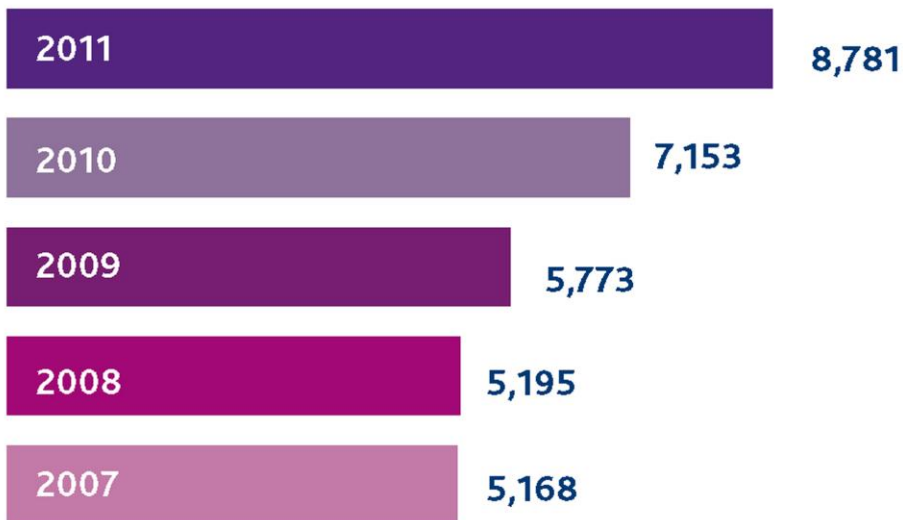


Doctors joining the register in 2011*

* Countries with over 1,000 doctors on the register

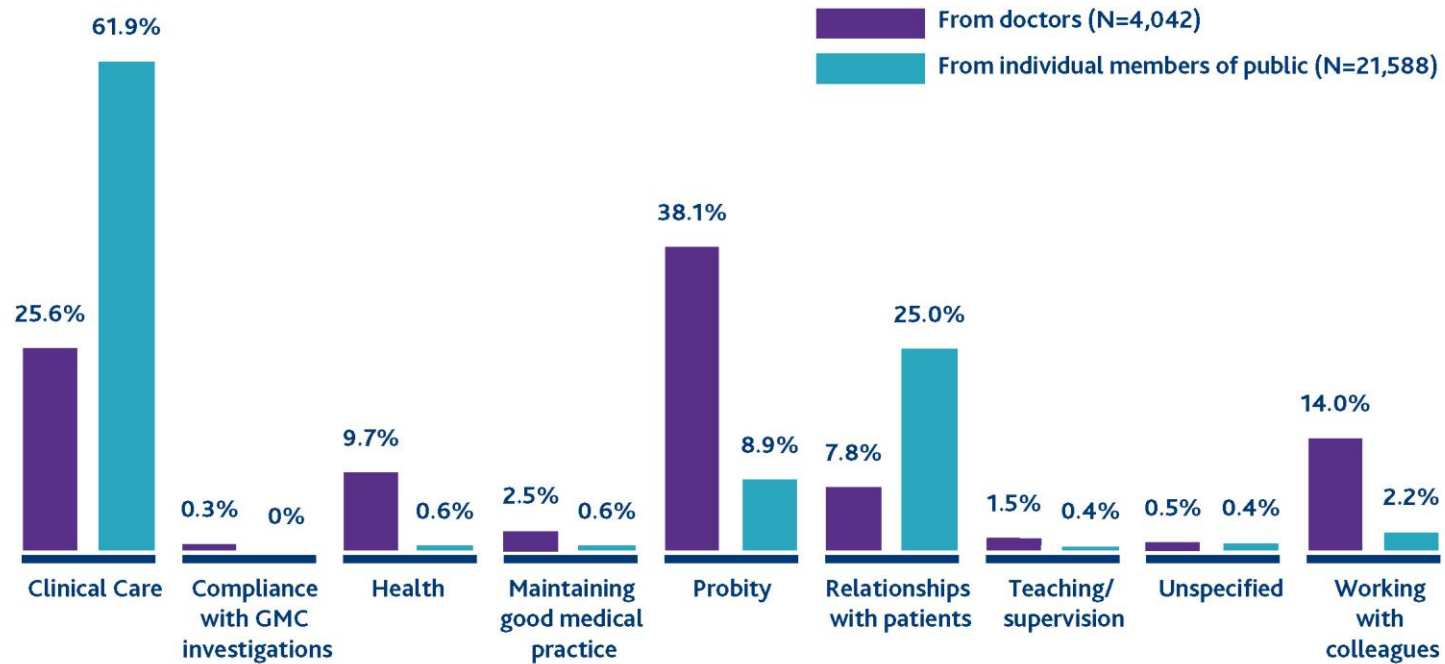


Complaints about doctors are increasing

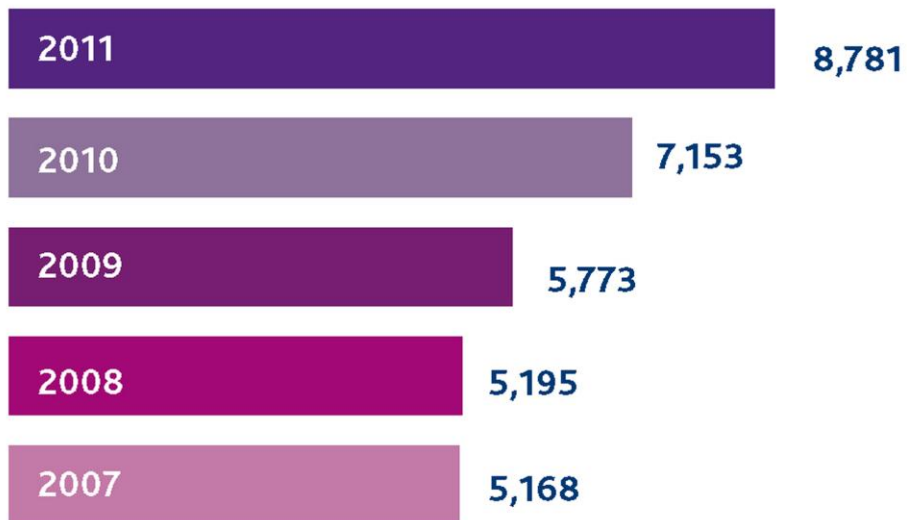


- Tiny proportion of patient interactions
- 8,781 complaints in 2011
- 23% up on 2010 (2010 24% on 2009)
- Increases from patients, relatives and official sources
- c 5000 closed at initial assessment
- one in 64 doctors investigated in 2011 (one in 68 in 2010)
- 2300 serious investigations
- 650 no action/ 700 advice
- 200 warning
- 175 conditions on practice
- 100 suspended
- 65 erased (73 in 2010)

Most complaints from patients/relatives

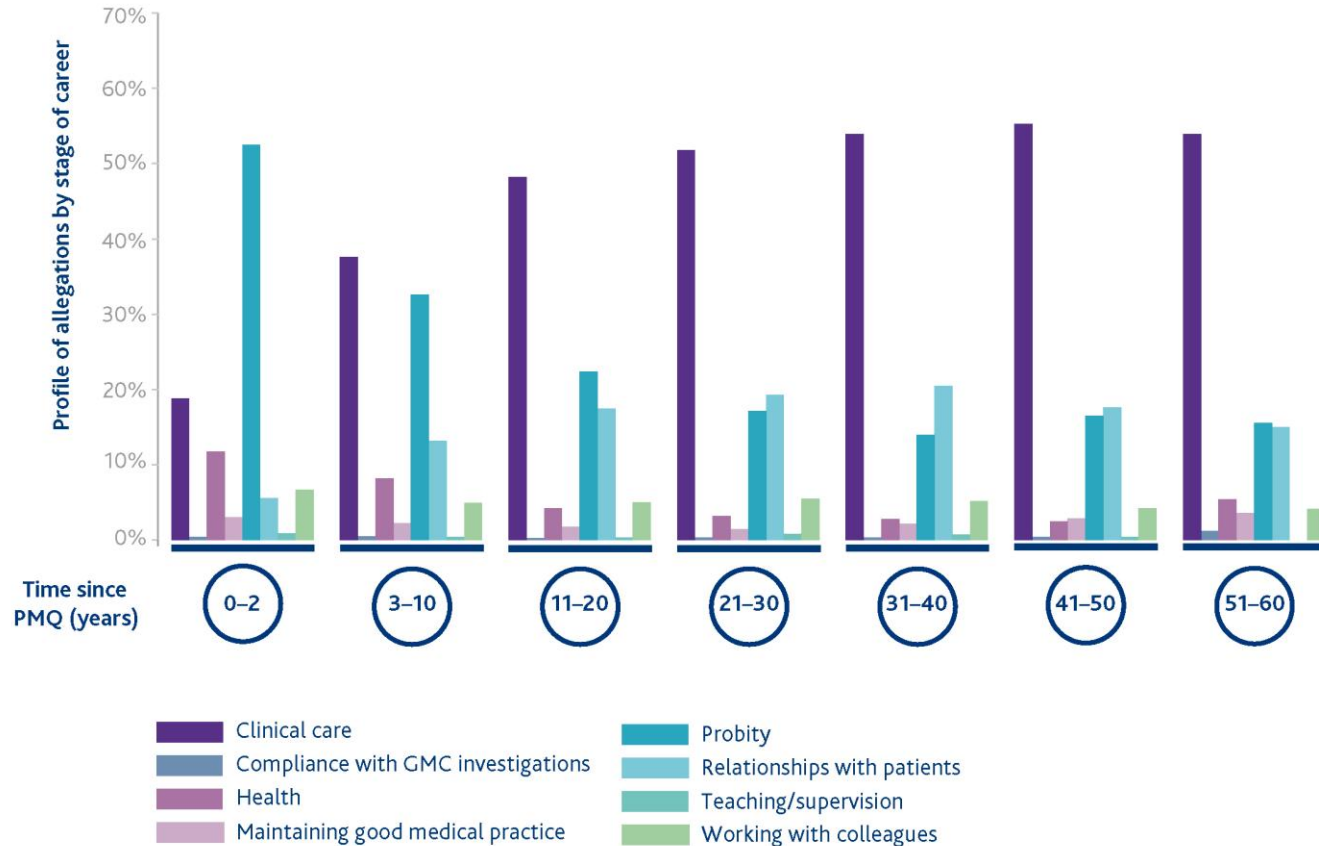


Some doctors are more complained about

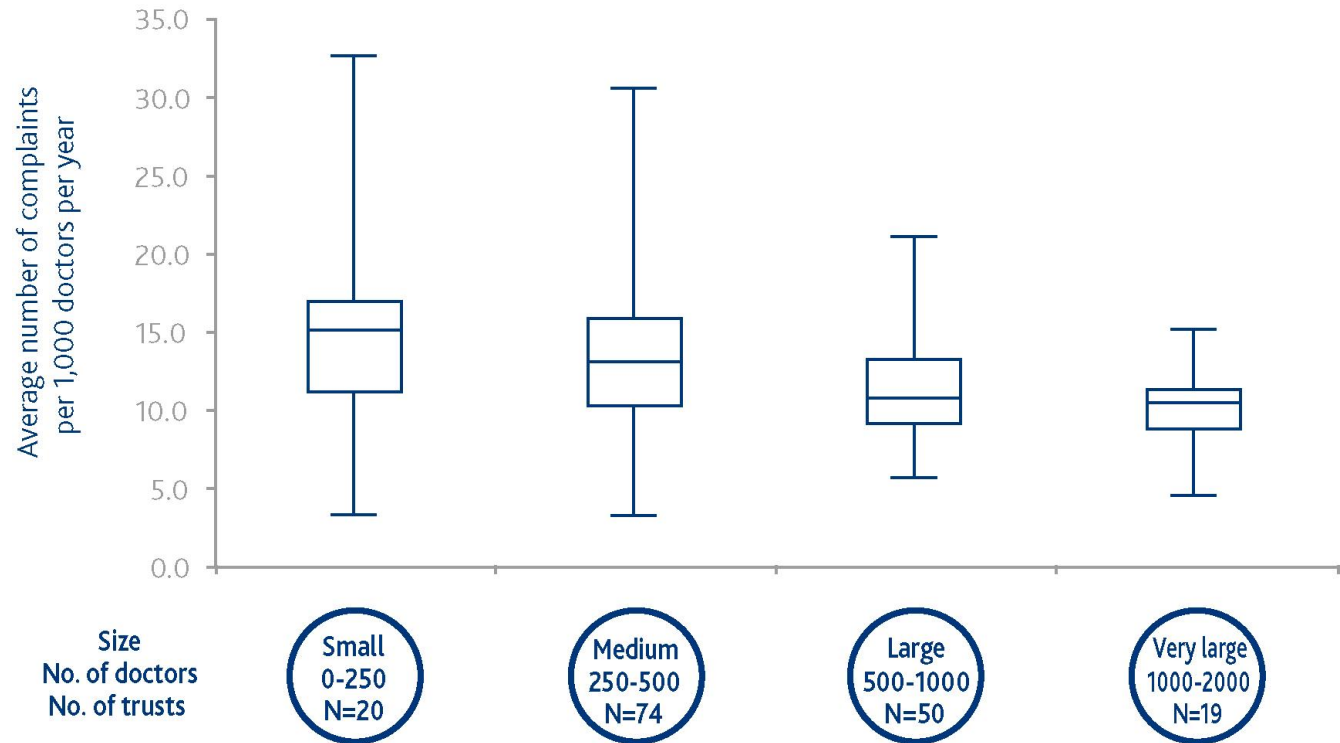


- GPs, surgeons and psychiatrists
- Older doctors
- Overseas qualified doctors have slightly higher rates of referral especially older ones
- But ethnicity does not appear to be a factor

Allegation types vary over doctors' careers

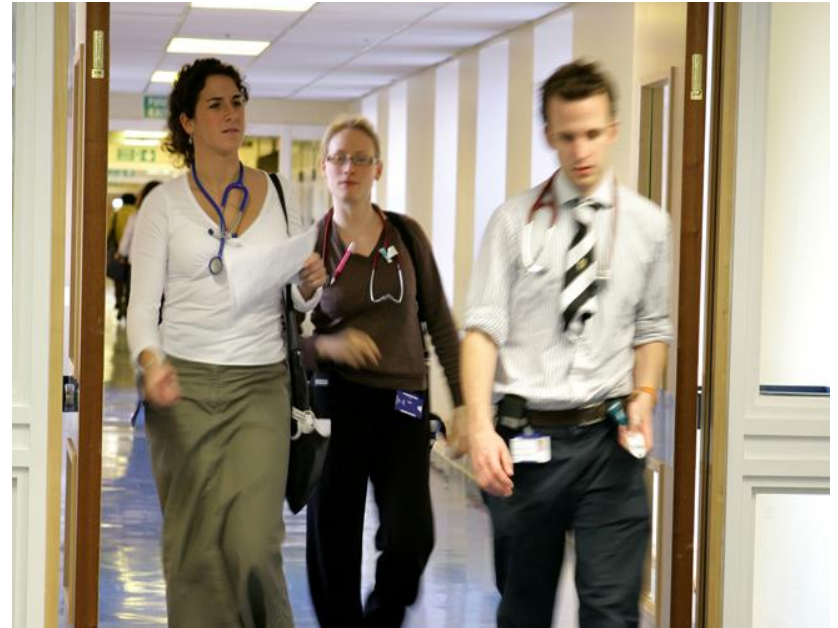


Organisational impact

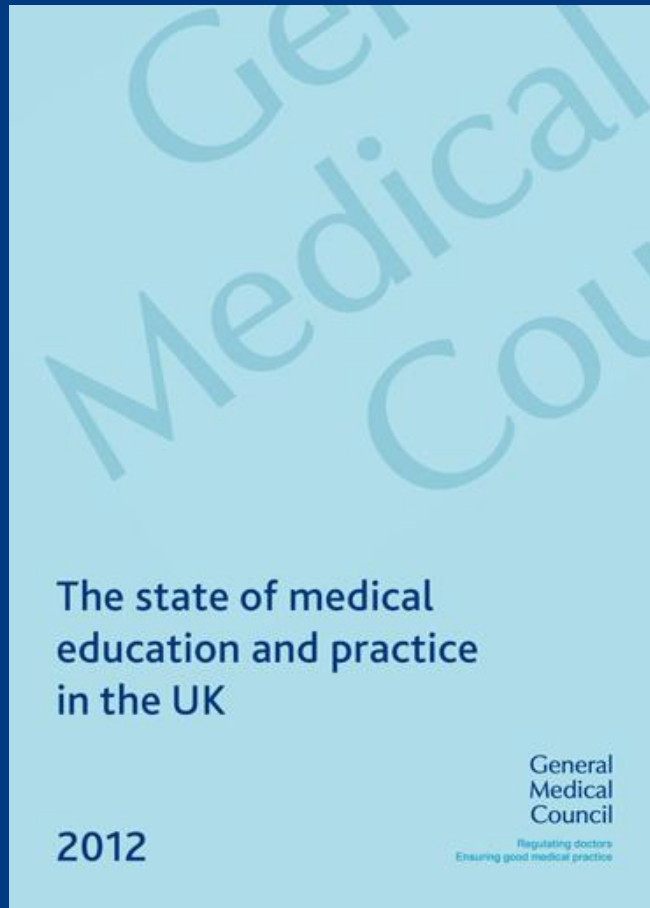


Overcoming barriers to good medical practice

- Doctors and patients have changed expectations
- Implications for workforce planning (cf European Commission EU Action Plan on health workforce)
- Need for greater flexibility in training and career paths to accommodate changing needs
- Better understanding of association between size of organisation and outcomes
- Revalidation – better clinical governance and support through appraisals



- Implications not just for the GMC – other regulators, organisations and employers



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