

Organization of the health care system and the recent/evolving human resource agenda

Each country will provide a 3 to 4 page written document by 31st July 2003, for circulation before the conference. The Update is designed to inform participants of these background issues and ensure a shared understanding each other's systems and services.

Introduction

The purpose of this template is to ensure that participants have a common picture of the way in which healthcare is organized in each country and that, so far as possible, comparable financial and labour supply data are reported. You may wish to report OECD data in some cases but if you can update this, please do so. Use national-level data but refer to provincial/state variations where relevant. If the requested information is not available or relevant to your country, please explain.

For each area, please comment on how this impacts on the human resource needs for primary and secondary care/specialist physicians and other health professionals.

While the focus is on physicians, please include any specific concerns regarding other health professionals such as nursing and allied health professionals.

1. Organisation

Briefly outline the structural provision of health care. Please define any terms which may not be common to all participating countries (eg. Intern, SpR, SAS)

Themes should include:

- ◆ Governance structures e.g. national or federal/state or provincial/regional
- ◆ Funding for the health care system i.e. private vs. public funding, insurance or other system, approach to distributing Government funding where relevant.
- ◆ Service delivery - primary care/secondary care/tertiary care
- ◆ Relationship with social services eg home care
- ◆ Key constraints in provision eg remote locations
- ◆ Training arrangements for doctors and nurses

Contributors are welcome to provide a bibliography of further relevant documents

2. Finance

Please report for 1990 and the most recent five years for which data is available :

- 1) aggregate spending on health care (total and public and private separately) as a percentage of Gross Domestic Product

- 2) per capita spending on health care (public and private, and separately) in local currency and in \$US, recording the exchange rate
- 3) breakdown of spending by categories of total health expenditures (hospitals, drugs, physicians, other professionals, etc)
- 4) method(s) of remuneration of physicians and other health professionals (where relevant)
- 5) recent rate of growth of expenditure on health care and/or announced changes in future government spending. Please quantify its causes and uses (e.g. in the USA it might be hospital tariff inflation and pharmaceutical spending, Australia might note the premium increases in their private sector while the UK might comment on the direction of recent sizeable government investment)
- 6) the current forecast for economic growth for 2003 and the next two years

3. Provision

Please report the following data in numbers (with whole time equivalents where appropriate) for 1990 and for the most recent five years for which data is available. Tables may be useful to display some of this information.

- 1) Total number/headcount of licensed physicians in practice (excluding trainees on educational licences), and number per 100,000 population broken down by place of graduation (home vs other country)¹
- 2) Total number/headcount of primary care physicians in practice (excluding those in training), and number per 100,000 population (Please define primary care and break down by category if appropriate)
- 3) Total number/headcount of hospital physicians/specialists in practice (excluding those in training), separated into consultants and other service staff if appropriate, and number per 100,000 population
- 4) Total number/headcount of physicians in training, separated into hospital/specialist trainees and primary care trainees, and number per 100,000 population
- 5) Total number of medical school places and number per 100,000 population
- 6) Total number of registered nurses employed, separated into primary and secondary care, and number per 100,000 population
- 7) Total number of allied health professionals employed, broken down by category eg physiotherapy, radiation technologist etc

¹ Note that line 1 = line 2 + line 3