

**JOINT ROYAL COLLEGES OF PHYSICIANS TRAINING BOARD  
(JRCPTB)**

**Annual Specialty Report for Palliative Medicine to  
The Postgraduate Medical Training Board (PMETB)  
for August 2007 to July 2008**

**1. Establishing Schools**

The specialty is not aware of any problems in the establishment of specialty schools for medical specialties, although the structures are still being developed in some areas

**2. Triggered Visits**

There have been no triggered visits for palliative medicine in this period

**3. Effect of changes to the specialty**

There have been no significant changes in the specialty that affect training during this period.

**4. Key concerns for the future of the specialty**

There are concerns about manpower planning for the specialty with the publication of the first National End of Life Care Strategy raising the importance of and expectations for palliative and end of life care, but uncertain funding for consultant expansion

**5. RITAs/ARCPs.** The following includes the responses we have received from the Heads of Specialist Training for this specialty

All trainees for this specialty have had successful RITAs/ARCPs and no RITA D or RITA Es have been reported for this period.

**6. European Working Time Directive (EWTD):** The following includes the responses we have received from the Heads of Specialist Training for this specialty

It has been reported that all trusts are EWTD compliant in all parts of the rota. The educational supervisors are aware of the EWTD, and the hospitals and hospices have not raised major concerns about working hours. One Deanery has changed banding in February 2007 to 1b for all trainees on the rotation throughout their training in all posts. It is understood that it makes them compliant.

**7. Training Programme Director Report information**

We have not received these reports for every Deanery for this reporting period but intend to include the themes in subsequent reports. However, we have received various Education Committee meeting minutes for this specialty which highlight no training or assessment concerns.

## **8. Examinations**

We do not have examination data available for this reporting period.

## **9. Assessments**

Workplace based assessments for the medical specialties including Direct Observation of Procedural Skills (DOPs), mini CEX, and Multisource Feedback (MSF) have been in place since 2005. Although there have been concerns within each specialty with regard to the time involved to complete these, their use has been widely encouraged so that PMETB standards are met. We continue to pilot further workplace based assessments.

## **10. e-portfolio**

Pilots for the specialty e-portfolios have been completed and it is hoped that the e-portfolio for trainees enrolled in Palliative Medicine will be available by April 2009. In the meantime, trainees have been advised to complete paper records or to continue to use their CMT e-portfolio.