

potential to affect patient safety, with a minority of medical schools offering limited teaching and patient contact.

**P 009 TEACHING PALLIATIVE CARE (PC) TO MEDICAL STUDENTS; ARE WE DEVELOPING SAFE PRACTITIONERS?**

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**Introduction** Appropriate training is essential to ensure PC is safely practised<sup>1</sup>. A proportion of newly qualified doctors report that undergraduate teaching has not adequately prepared them to manage PC patients.<sup>2</sup> Little is known about how PC training is delivered across UK medical schools<sup>3</sup>. Addressing this requires key data; one group likely to have an overview are the responsible PC educational leads.

**Aim(s) and method(s)** To undertake a comprehensive review of PC teaching across UK medical schools by means of an anonymised, multifactorial questionnaire of educational leads.

A 40-point questionnaire was developed using SurveyMonkey® and sent to PC educational leads at all 30 UK medical schools. This study received ethical approval.

**Results** The response was 100%. PC teaching occurred in all institutions. In 20 (67%), there was a formal PC component. Teaching around last days of life, death and bereavement was mandatory. Training in other areas (e.g. emergencies) was sometimes optional. Teaching was generally 'integrated' (15 respondents) and/or 'formed a module' within a larger course (17 respondents) and generally occurred in the final 2 years. A student selected component was offered by 27 (90%).

Most respondents were positive about their courses which, in general, were well supported locally, personally satisfying and highly rated by students.

**Concerns included:**

- ▶ Limited student placements (20, 66%).
- ▶ Restricted opportunity to visit a hospice and observe MDT care (10, 33%)
- ▶ Insufficient teachers (22, 73%)
- ▶ Insufficient funding (10, 33%)
- ▶ Variability in teaching (15, 50%) Whether courses prepared doctors to care for PC patients (9, 30%) delivered quality training (5, 17%) and fulfilled GMC requirements (2, 7%).

**Conclusions** PC training for medical students in the UK continues to evolve with greater integration into the curriculum and the wider use of learning assessment. There is, however, variability, which has the