Comparing evidence submitted by sessional and principal GPs for appraisal and revalidation

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Research study aims

 To evaluate GP appraisal processes for validation in one area in England

Objectives

- To explore GPs' perceptions about appraisal and validation processes
- To compare appraisal evidence produced by different groups of GPs

Mixed methods study

Collection and analysis of qualitative data:

- 5 focus groups held with 23 attendees at a GP appraisal stakeholder event
- 7 individual interviews with appraisal leads for PCTs within the Deanery's geographical
- Thematic data analysis

Mixed methods study

Collection and analysis of quantitative data:

- 123 evidence checklists completed by GP appraisers for individual GPs
- Descriptive statistics
- Comparisons between different GP groups gender, age, status

Evidence checklist record

Good clinical Care:

- Case Reviews
- Significant events
- Data Collection or Audit
- QuOF and prescribing data

Maintaining Good Medical Practice:

- Personal learning log
- CPR/Child Protection
- Membership of learning organisations

Evidence checklist record

Relations with Patients/Colleagues:

- Patient Survey; Multi source feedback
- Information about Complaints
- Referrals and relations with secondary care
- Information for patients

Reflection/appraisal in other roles:

- Research; Teaching; Management
- Probity; Health
- Overview of achievements and challenges
- Updated PDP

Sessional and principal GPs - key findings: qualitative data

I think the sessional doctors are a difficult group, I don't mean difficult in personality, I think they're difficult in their needs, different in their needs, different in their needs.

R12 (appraiser)

I've raised it as an issue ... I don't know how we're going to get the sessional doctors being able to do audits, for example.

Appraisal Lead 4

Sessional and principal GPs - key findings: qualitative data

Having said that, you see some excellent papers from sessional doctors ... I've done [appraised] sessional doctors who have got probably papers better than some of the principals I do.

R12 (appraiser)

If you want to be robust about your own performance you can be ... I have appraised a sessional GP who was all over the place and she produced some fantastic work because she'd been bothered to do it.

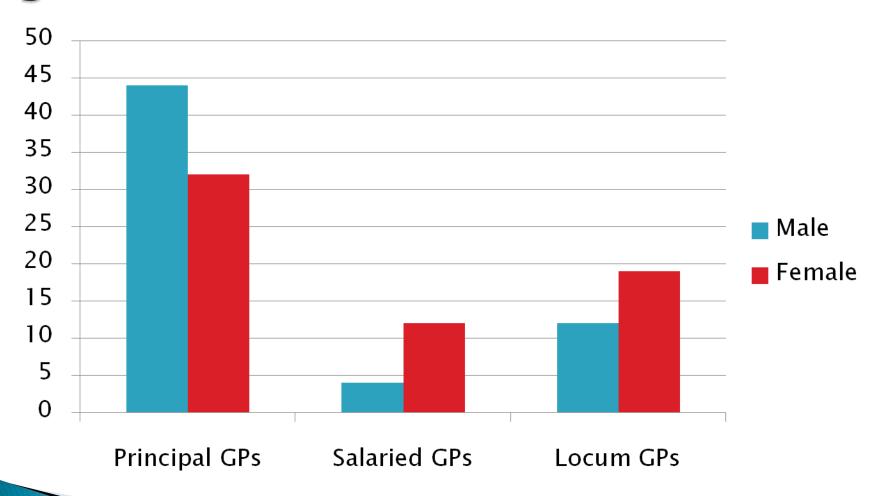
Appraisal Lead5

Sessional and principal GPs - key findings: qualitative data

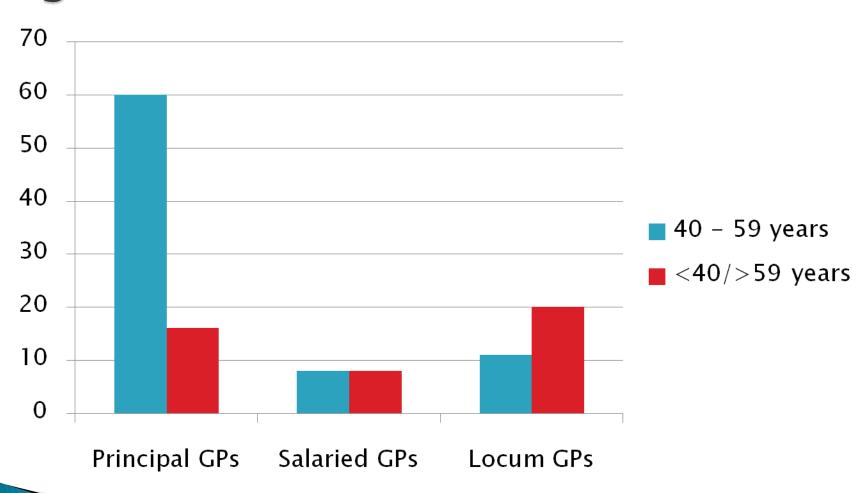
▶ I know a doctor who does only out-of-hours at the moment, but...if she does a referral for something in the middle of the night and gets someone into hospital, she'll find the phone number for the practice, ring the practice, get their address, send a polite note to the principal saying 'I hope you don't mind me asking, I've sent this patient in and I would like to know what happened, if it's okay to anonymise and send some feedback'. So it is okay, it is timeconsuming but it can be done.

R11 (appraiser)

Quantitative sample by status and gender



Quantitative sample by status and age



Differences

- Organisational data collection or audit
 - 58% of principals; 50% of salaried; 19% of locums
- Personal patient survey:
 - 86% of principals; 69% of salaried; 55% of locums
- Personal prescribing
 - 46% of principals; 31% of salaried; 13% of locums

Personal data - no differences

- Data collection or audit
- Significant events
- Complaints received
- Statement of no complaints
- Multi-source feedback
- Referrals

Conclusion

Is there reason to be concerned about sessional doctors' ability to produce appropriate evidence for appraisal for revalidation?