LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Doctors’ health—addressing the knowledge gap

Dear Sir,

We read with interest and commend Vijendren et al.’s [1] in-depth review, analysing occupational health issues in UK doctors. To supplement their knowledge, readers should be aware of a report published in this journal in 2013, which evaluated doctors and dentists contacts with a NHS occupational health (OH) service [2]. For management and self-referrals, the medical reason for attendance (by disease category) and work-relatedness (caused by work, made worse by work, not work related) were recorded and presented in the results.

Doctors’ health is a subject of increasing interest and related research is progressing, although there is still some way to go, particularly on specific work-related aspects, as highlighted in this in-depth review. Ongoing surveillance through schemes such as THOR and routine activity analysis by NHS OH Departments would be useful in identifying current trends, informing risk assessments and tailoring health and well-being interventions.

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References