

Request title: RD&E Wonford Dialysis Unit Information

Date of Response: 14 July

Further to your Freedom of Information request, the Trust has answered your questions in the order they appear in your request.

Request

1. Who oversees how the units money is spent?
2. How many doctors there are in the unit and on-call?
3. Who checks what the doctors are doing?
4. Why is it necessary to have ten consultants for the renal department, but no junior doctors?

Reply

1. The Exeter Dialysis Unit is financially managed by the specialty management team and its associated finance lead; this is also regularly reviewed and monitored by the Divisional management team.
2. The RD&E renal service consists of 8.5 WTE (whole time equivalent) consultants. The consultants are supported by a team of junior doctors, usually consisting of 3 WTE registrars and 4 CMT (senior house officer equivalent) doctors. The CMT doctors are resident on-call for problems occurring in the main renal unit in the RD&E. All senior doctors have an on-call rota, wherein the main renal unit as well as all the satellite dialysis units are covered at all times, including out of hours. Consultants are often the first contact for the satellite units as the CMT doctor cannot be expected to deal with many of the dialysis-associated problems. The registrars are resident on-call for acute medicine only during the week, but have a rota to cover Saturday on-calls for the renal service.
3. Each consultant has responsibility for their teams when they are on renal in-patient service for 2 week blocks, as well as continuing their respective areas of care in satellite dialysis units and other outpatients. The renal service is configured in a multi-disciplinary setting so that most decisions are taken after open discussion. All junior doctors have clinical and educational supervisors to check their performance and progress, and consultants have an annual appraisal to ensure performance. Amongst many other responsibilities, the Lead Clinician ensures consultant colleagues comply with Trust policies and overall safety of the renal service. However, consultants must have a certain degree of autonomy as they are highly trained and experienced doctors.
4. Please see the answer given above in question 2.