

I am a retired medical practitioner having spent over forty years first in general practice and then as a salaried specialist in child psychiatry. I also worked as a general practitioner for a year for the British NHS. In my experience trust is a vital ingredient in all medical relationships, doctor/patient; doctor/ other professionals; doctor/doctor. Trust is easily eroded when there are competing demands in one or both parties. Drives for efficiency, for profit and for productivity are examples of such demands. Policies that impact on these relationships need to be very carefully considered.

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