

Online Supplementary Material

Stokes T, Tarrant C, Mainous AG, Schers H, Freeman G, Baker R. Continuity of care: is the personal doctor still important? A survey of general practitioners and family physicians in England and Wales, the United States, and the Netherlands. *Ann Fam Med.* 2005;3:353-359.

<http://www.annfammed.org/cgi/content/full/3/4/353/DC1>

Supplementary Appendix. National Survey of General Practitioners' Views on Continuity of Care

Continuity of care is thought by many to be important in general practice. We would like to find out your views on the different ways of providing continuity in general practice and how continuity may be affected by recent and proposed changes in the delivery of health services.

1. We would like to know how important you feel different types of continuity are in providing good-quality care to your patients

Thinking about the **quality of care** to your patients, please tick a box to indicate how **important** you feel each of the following are:

	Not at all important				Extremely important
1.a. Building up relationships over time with the patients you see	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>
1.b. Good recording and transfer of patient information	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>
1.c. Different health professionals working together with you to provide coordinated and consistent care	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>
1.d. Providing care and management for a wide range of health problems within your practice	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>

2. We would like to know about your experiences of continuity in your current day-to-day practice as a GP

Thinking about your **current day-to-day practice as a GP**, please tick a box to indicate the extent to which you **agree or disagree with each of the following statements**:

	Strongly disagree				Strongly agree
2.a. I have the opportunity to build up relationships over time with many of the patients I see	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>
2.b. There is very good recording and transfer of patient information within my practice	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>
2.c. There is very good recording and transfer of patient information from health professionals/ service providers outside the practice, to my practice	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>
2.d. The GPs, nurses and other health professionals in my practice (employed and attached staff) work together to provide coordinated and consistent care	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>
2.e. Health professionals/service providers outside the practice (e.g. hospitals) work with my practice to provide coordinated and consistent care	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>
2.f. The patients I see can have a wide range of health problems managed within my practice	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>

GP = general practitioners in the United Kingdom and the Netherlands, and family physicians in the United States.

Note: This questionnaire was pilot tested and the wording slightly changed to reflect US practice. It was translated into Dutch, pilot tested and the wording slightly modified to reflect practice in the Netherlands.

3. We would like to know whether you feel that recent and proposed changes in the delivery of health services will affect continuity in your day-to-day practice as a GP*

Thinking about how your day-to day practice as a GP is likely to be in **2 years time**, please tick a box to indicate the extent to which you **agree or disagree with each of the following statements**:

	Strongly disagree				Strongly agree
3.a. I will have the opportunity to build up relationships over time with many of the patients I see	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>
3.b. There will be very good recording and transfer of patient information within my practice	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>
3.c. There will be very good recording and transfer of patient information from health professionals/ service providers outside the practice, to my practice	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>
3.d. The GPs, nurses and other health professionals in my practice (employed and attached staff) will work together to provide coordinated and consistent care	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>
3.e. Health professionals/service providers outside the practice (e.g. hospitals) will work with my practice to provide coordinated and consistent care	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>
3.f. The patients I see will be able to have a wide range of health problems managed within my practice	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>

4. We would like to know about your views on delivering primary care to patients

Please tick a box to indicate the extent to which you **agree or disagree with each of the following statements**:

	Strongly disagree				Strongly agree
4.a. Being able to see the same patients over time is one of the most rewarding aspects of general practice	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>
4.b. Being able to see the same patients over time contributes to the development of my professional knowledge	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>
4.c. It is too much of a burden for individual GPs to manage the whole range of minor and major health problems for each patient	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>
4.d. If recording and transfer of patient information is good, there is no need for most patients to consistently see the same GP	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>
4.e. If different health professionals work together to provide coordinated and consistent care, there is no need for most patients to consistently see the same GP	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>
4.f. Ideally patients should have most of their care provided by the same GP	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>
4.g. If practices implement advanced access policies then patients will be less likely to consistently see the same GP	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>
4.h. It is more important for practices to make sure patients can be seen quickly than to make sure they can see the GP of their choice	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>
4.i. Practices should make sure that all patients have the option of seeing a GP of their choice	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>

5. Is there anything else you would like to add about continuity of care in modern general practice?

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Please turn over – there is one last page for you to complete, thank you

GP = general practitioners in the United Kingdom and the Netherlands, and family physicians in the United States.

* This question was only asked in the questionnaire sent to GPs in England and Wales. The covering letter made specific reference to the new General Medical Services GP contract.

6. About you & your practice

(please tick boxes as appropriate)

6.a. How old are you? less than 35 35 to 50 over 50

6.b. Are you: female male

6.c. Are you a GP principal? yes no

6.d. Do you work in the practice:

full time
 part time - ½ time or more
 part time - less than ½ time

6.e. How many GP partners are there in your practice? _____
(please enter number here)

6.f. How many non-principal GPs are there in your practice? _____
(please enter number here)

6.g. What is the list size of your practice? less than 6,000 more than 6,000

6.h. Is your practice a training practice? yes no

6.i. Does your practice offer a personal list system? yes no

Please tick this box if you would like to receive a copy of the results of this study:

**Thank you very much indeed for taking the time to fill in this questionnaire.
Please return it in the reply-paid envelope provided**