

# Consultants – Who needs them?

Dr Aubrey Bristow  
Consultant Anaesthetist and Director

---

WEYMOUTH STREET

HOSPITAL

9

HARLEY STREET

25

HARLEY STREET

PHOENIX HOSPITAL

CHELMSFORD

PHOENIX  DIAGNOSTICS

PHOENIX  PATHOLOGY

# Consultants. Who needs them?

---

In general, medical treatment must be overseen by doctors  
on the GMC specialist register

But do we need specialists

or consultants

or both

# Consultants. Who needs them?

---

Specialists: Independent patient care  
Responsibility for individual patients

Consultants Responsibility for teaching, training and supervision of trainees  
Research  
Responsibility for service provision, group audit, development  
Duty of care to NHS Trust for current and future services

# Consultants. Who needs them?

---

Specialists: Independent patient care  
Responsibility for individual patients

Consultants Responsibility for teaching, training and supervision of trainees  
Research  
**Responsibility for service provision, group audit, development**  
**Duty of care to NHS Trust for current and future services**

# Consultants. Who needs them?

---

Most doctors merely want to treat their patients and run their practices

Most IPs require more:

Audit, MDTs, policies

Representatives for MAC, CGC

Employment for medical director, MAC Chair etc

NHS 2003      enhanced salary in return for a detailed job plan and consultant provided service

INCREASINGLY A COMPETITOR

# Consultants. Who needs them?

---

Private medicine has more of a challenge than a choice

## THE CHALLENGE

National shortage of doctors – some specialties critical

NHS may have first call and be the preferred environment of consultants

Progressive reduction in private practice income

# Consultants. Who needs them?

---

Contractual basis will be driven as much by the availability of applicants for a particular model as by the model preference of the IP or insurer

