

A commissioning conundrum or clinical crisis?

Introduction:

The decommissioning of psychosexual medicine services in the UK involves their deliberate discontinuation or reduction by health authorities, due to budget constraints, changes in healthcare priorities, or restructuring of healthcare provision¹. The potential ramifications of decommissioning these services are manifold. Patients presenting to psychosexual services will often have had multiple negative experiences and/or interventions within the healthcare setting².

65% treat men

22.7% are going into consultation

0% have been recommissioned

16.7% have been decommissioned



Methods:

A digitalised survey was distributed via the mailing list to all subscribing members of The Institute of Psychosexual Medicine (N=372). Respondents N=23

Discussion:

The current state of affairs risks denying patients the care they need, overburdening alternative services and alienating specialised doctors with expertise in psychosexual medicine.

1. Williams I, Harlock J, Robert G, Mannion R, Brearley S & Hall K. Decommissioning health care: identifying best practice through primary and secondary research a prospective mixed-methods study. *Health Serv Deliv Res* 2017;5(22)

2. Cowan F, Frodsham L. Management of common disorders in psychosexual medicine. *The Obstetrician and Gynaecologist*. 2015; 17:47-53