

HIPPOKRATES EXCHANGE IN LONDON

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I wanted to go to London to get to know the way medicine is in other country and learning more about the General Practice in Primary Care. With the Hippokrates exchange programme I could do it.

The role of the GP trainee is similar in London and Malaga although our studies are different. The role of the GP is different too, or so between my own and my Host in Henfield Medical Center. The working hours are different and the number of patients too, mainly, the number of patients seen in a day. In the medical center where I work (Nerja) doctors see thirty or forty patients a day and in Henfield, doctors see many less and the time with every patient is longer(fifteen minutes more less) . We have seven minutes for patient in Málaga.

I think that is because the role of other members of the staff , mainly nurses (practice and specialist nurses) is very different. In Henfield they have more responsibilities, specialities and duties and they do the doctor's work many times because they are practice nurses and they offer additional services (control Diabetes Mellitus, COPD,...). So the Chronic care management is more organized. Specialist nurses do a excellent work in the community because they offer communication between the specialist doctors and primary care. Other members of the staff like secretaries help doctors and they also do administrative work.

Doctors in Henfield deal with telephone consultations with their patients and in Nerja, my tutor

and I have home visits and very rarely have any telephone consultations.

Patients in Henfield are very satisfied and grateful for all members of the staff and I think patients expectations are covered. Perhaps, I think in Spain there is more accessibility to public health because every city or town have an emergency center where patients can go if it's necessary but in England they don't have this service.

I don't know exactly the GP pay in England but doctors have a higher salary than in Spain. Henfield medical center is not opened at night or at weekends while in Spain almost all Medical centers have at least one doctor for emergencies at night or weekends.

I think that General Practice is viewed by English society with respect and so, the patients are very polite with their doctors.

I liked a lot the GP clinic consultation rooms and the facilities because everything is new and is clean and organized .

My medical center is older .Henfield Medical Center is half private, the majority of doctors being owners, so it is a very different from of management . In Nerja, everything is public and everything belongs and it's managed by the Andalusian health system.

On the other hand in Henfield Medical Center, doctors are owners and they manage the center (wages of the employees, patient's medication,etc...) according to agreements with the National Health Service.

I learned and Knew from my experience in England a different way of working , a different culture, and the different services offered to the community by the English health system.

I would recommend this experience because it's a unique experiencie and really rewarding , you can improve your english although I'm afraid it was too short for me.