

Individualised personal support for postgraduate medical trainees in Wales, facing high stakes outcomes related to examination failure



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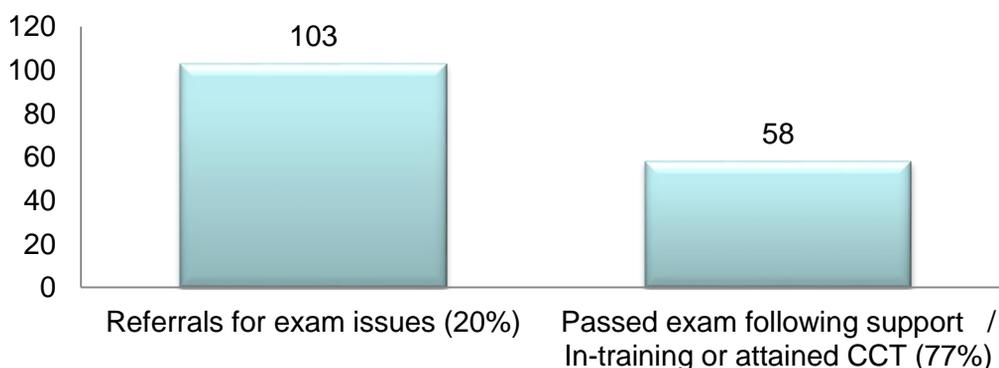
Introduction

UK postgraduate medical training is now in accordance with GMC approved specialty curricula. Each curriculum is competency based with an assessment system across its entirety. There are assessments of knowledge i.e. Royal College based examinations that determine continued progress within the training programme or successful exit from the programme with a Certificate of Completion of Training.

With the specification of a limited period of extended training within the Gold Guide, repeated failure at these high stakes examination can result in termination from the training programme with an Outcome 4 at ARCP.

Results

There are currently 2,600 training posts in Wales (INTREPID Feb 12). On average, 150 (>5%) trainees are receiving support from the PSU at any one time. Since 2008, 103 trainees (20% of the overall referrals) were referred for high stakes exam failure. 58 (77% of the closed cases) passed the examination and continued with specialty training or attained CCT.



Conclusion

We believe that individual support provided for high stakes examination failure is a valuable commitment to keeping capable specialist trainees within training and enabling them to complete their training with a CCT.

Methodology

Since 2008 the Wales Deanery has offered trainees who are progressing well within other areas of their training but failing to pass a high stakes examination specialised support to increase success.

The Professional Support Unit at Wales Deanery provides personalised support for trainees presenting with exam failure including the option of a referral to the ISP. The ISP provides an assessment and support dependent on the individual's needs.

This support is undertaken in parallel to ongoing specialty specific examination preparation.