

Mobility of specialists between levels of care

The mobility of specialists between different levels of care requires a different attitude on the part of certain specialties, like internal medicine or surgery, but relies on an organisation that has been tested and proven efficient in hospital units that delivery intensive care services. Intensive care is a modern patient management facility according to proven criteria supported by guidelines, which does not impinge on the need for rotations of consultants who provide important, and often binding, opinions after suitably transferring knowledge to the field.

The best way to think of care levels is to imagine a series of Intensive Care units delivering different intensities of care, but which are similarly open to the specialists who come in to provide consultancy services, while the facilities care for patients on an ongoing basis.

It might take time but eventually confidence that initially is placed only in familiar staff members will eventually be extended to other less well known members of staff. It is advisable to define the diseases and disorders to be assigned to specialists; fact-, evidence- and guideline-based medicine is becoming increasingly practised. Organisational changes depend strongly on integration between different professional skills. This represents another opportunity to iron out conflicts because the patient is not mine or yours, the patient belongs to the hospital, and there are no pre-defined hierarchies to comply with.