

 Supplementary files are available for this work. For more information about accessing these files, follow the link from the Table of Contents to "Reading the Supplementary Files".

DYNAMIC ANALYSIS OF SOME PROPOSALS FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF THE NUMBER OF PHYSICIANS IN SPAIN

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In this work the impact of some proposals formulated by several groups involved on the Spanish Health System is analyzed. The purpose of these proposals is to solve the current imbalance problem among supply and demand of physicians.

The proposals that are analyzed in this work are made by: the National Commission of Primary Care Medicine (Diario Médico, 17/02/00), the Spanish Society of Primary Care Medicine (Diario Médico, 17/03/00), the Official School of Physicians from Barcelona, the Institute of Sciences of the Health and Faculties of Medicine from Cataluña (Europa Press, 05/04/00), the Federation of Associations for the Defense of the Public Health System (Diario Médico, 03/05/00), the State Confederation of Medical Unions (CESM, 1999; Diario Médico, 05/05/00) and the State Council of Students of Medicine (Diario Médico, 14/02/00, 15/02/00, 24/02/00, 01/03/00, 02/03/00, 03/03/00, 14/03/00, 06/06/00), among others.

Next, the main points of such proposals are shown:

THE NATIONAL COMMISSION OF PRIMARY CARE MEDICINE
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Vacancies dedicated to house physicians: 3,000• Vacancies dedicated to recently graduated: 2,000• Vacancies dedicated to graduates included on the historical “bag”: 1,000• <i>Numerus clausus</i>: reduction at 2,000 in two years• Elimination of new access to the formation system to specialized doctors already formed
THE SPANISH SOCIETY OF PRIMARY CARE MEDICINE
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Vacancies dedicated to house physicians: fixed vacancies around 4,800• Vacancies dedicated to graduates post-95: 95%• Vacancies dedicated to graduated pre-95: 5%• Reduction of the number of allocated vacancies in Faculties of Medicine• Elimination of new access, during five years, to the formation system to specialized doctors already formed. Later on, they could opt to the MIR vacancies (house physicians) of the reserved share to graduated pre-95
THE OFFICIAL SCHOOL OF PHYSICIANS FROM BARCELONA, THE INSTITUTE OF SCIENCES OF THE HEALTH AND THE FACULTIES OF MEDICINE FROM CATALUÑA
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Vacancies dedicated to house physicians: according to current policies• <i>Numerus clausus</i>: progressive reduction in the next 10 years of 20% of the number of allocated vacancies in the Faculties of Medicine. Later on, and in the following 10 years, progressive increment among 10 and 15 annual vacancies in the undergraduate studies
THE FEDERATION OF ASSOCIATIONS FOR THE DEFENSE OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEM
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increment of the number of vacancies dedicated to house physicians• Reduction of the number of allocated vacancies in Faculties of Medicine• Elimination of new access to the formation system to the specialized doctors already formed

THE STATE CONFEDERATION OF MEDICAL UNIONS

- Increment of the number of vacancies dedicated to house physicians¹
- Reduction of the number of allocated vacancies in Faculties of Medicine²
- Elimination of new access to the formation system to specialized doctors already formed³

THE STATE COUNCIL OF STUDENTS OF MEDICINE

- Increment of the number of vacancies dedicated to house physicians

In this study, the impact over the Spanish Health System of every proposed measure is shown; as well as its comparison with the evolution of the system according to the allocation policies that are currently used.

From the point of view of the historical “bag” of graduates without specialty; the results of the study reveal that the proposal from the Spanish Society of Primary Care Medicine is the best one (followed by the proposals of the Federation of Associations for the Defense of the Public Health System and the State Confederation of Medical Unions).

However, the proposals of the Official School of Physicians from Barcelona, the Institute of Studies of the Health, the Faculties of Medicine from Cataluña and the National Commission of Primary Care Medicine spread to harm the evolution of this “bag” (if the projection is compared with the one obtained from a simulation scenario like the initial one). Although they decrease the *numerus clausus*, it also decreases the number of MIR vacancies, diminishing the opportunities of graduates to leave the “bag”.

Regarding the proposal of the State Council of Students of Medicine, it also spreads to improve the evolution of the historical “bag” if it is compared with the evolution of the same one from the initial scenario.

Nevertheless, it is observed that the best proposals for the evolution of the historical “bag” of graduates without specialty are those that more harm the evolution of the specialized doctors “bag” and the “gap⁴.” Those proposals that offer better results for the specialized doctors “bag” also are the ones that generate a worse evolution of the historical “bag”.

According to the obtained results it is concluded that the proposal that offers better results in the long term it is the one carried out by the Spanish Society of Primary Care Medicine. Nevertheless, none of them is appropriate to eliminate or to reduce the outlined problem, although they can improve certain collectives or groups in certain moments.

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¹ Diario Médico (05/05/00).

² CESM (1999).

³ This measure would be desirable, although they recognize that it can be unconstitutional to prohibit the realization of a second specialty.

⁴ Imbalances among supply and demand.