

REFERENCES

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Manpower 1982-1983

Bids for new posts for 1982-83 will be decided by Regional Authorities on the advice of Regional Manpower Committees within the next few months on the basis of guidelines formulated and issued by the DHSS. There seems little likelihood that cash limits will be significantly eased by 1982-83, and the case for psychiatry will have to be argued in face of a greater degree of consultant expansion to be allowed in the support specialties—e.g., anaesthetics, radiology, and unlimited expansion, as far as central approval is concerned, in general medicine, general surgery, and obstetrics and gynaecology. It may be expected that the non-metropolitan Regions will be better placed financially to meet consultant expansion, so that while on average two to three adult mental illness consultant posts will be permitted in each Region, Regions with resources may be encouraged to bid above this average, as preference will normally be given to Regions with the lowest ratio of establishment to population. The same principle would apply in child and adolescent psychiatry where on average one post per Region may be allowed. Only two new consultant posts in mental handicap will be created in the year in England and Wales. Applications for forensic psychiatry posts for regional secure units will be treated sympathetically, and, while there is no limit proposed for psychotherapy posts, the small number of senior registrars who will have completed training suggests that few bids are anticipated for this specialty.

Senior registrar and registrar posts are not likely to be approved in any of the psychiatric specialties. The high percentage of unfilled posts in mental handicap and child and adolescent psychiatry would suggest that the best use may not be being made of established posts in these specialties.

Since until they are, consultant expansion will be limited, serious local consideration may have to be given to reallocating senior registrar posts within a Region, perhaps with reverse compensatory reallocation of registrar or SHO posts. As far as psychotherapy is concerned, it would seem that the case for senior registrar expansion can only be made when consultant bids exceed the number of trained senior registrars.

Senior house officer, clinical assistant, and hospital practitioner posts will remain matters for local decision. Registrar, senior registrar, consultant and personal applications for appointment to the medical assistant grade will continue to be considered centrally. In general, all bids for extra medical staff are initiated at District level. Those concerned with medical assistant and consultant posts will be referred from Area to Region when the advice of the Regional Manpower Committee is obtained. Regional bids are referred to the Central Manpower Committee for advice, while the Department formally issues authorizations. The junior hospital doctor representatives on the Central Manpower Committee may exercise a veto on medical assistant approvals; they often express anxiety that the creation of medical assistant posts may prevent an increase of consultant posts. It should be remembered that the post vacated by a medical assistant on appointment to that grade is not lost to establishment, while a post of medical assistant vacated by its personal holder may be upgraded to the consultant grade.

ASHLEY ROBIN, *Chairman*
FIONA CALDICOTT, *Secretary*
Manpower Committee

EXAMINATIONS—AUTUMN 1981

The next MRCPsych Examinations will take place on the following dates:

Preliminary Test—2 September 1981. (Closing date for receipt of entries—1 July 1981)

Membership Examination—28 October 1981 (written papers); 2 to 5 November 1981 (clinical and orals). (Closing date for receipt of entries—5 August 1981)

The entry fees are £40 and £65 respectively. Late or

incomplete entries are not accepted. The College does not give exemption from any part of the examinations. Candidates are reminded that they must pass the Membership Examination within five years of passing the Preliminary Test.

Details and entry forms are available from the Examinations Secretary at the College.