

that these individuals deserve and need follow-up by trained members of the permanent staff. We recognise that this has implications in terms of the organisation of both service and training arrangements and requires further debate within the College.

We would suggest that audit of follow-up arrangements for these groups of patients must be a high priority for the College if we are to avoid the risk of having 'back ward' type care in the community.

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Long-interval job-sharing

DEAR SIRS

Job-sharing is now accepted practice in the NHS. It is attractive to married women with children, and to those approaching retirement. So far the sharing has been on a weekly basis, with the week's sessions divided between two people. I am exploring the possibility of sharing on the basis of longer intervals,

such as two or three months. This might be attractive to women with children at school who want to work during the school terms but not during the holidays, and to those approaching retirement who want to develop interests which require longer periods than a few days. My own interest is off-shore sailing which requires a month or two to allow a satisfactory passage.

The main drawback to the idea is any possible adverse effect on patients or other staff. After discussions with local colleagues, managers and paramedical staff, it seems to me that it is worth trying, possibly with a built-in 'action research' project to evaluate it. I should be interested to hear from others who might find such an arrangement attractive.

As Benjamin Franklin is said to have said, there's no harm in retirement so long as it doesn't interfere with your work.

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NEW PUBLICATION

Reading Lists for Trainees

General Psychiatry

This reading list has been produced by the College Library. Specialists in each area were consulted and their recommendations have been used to compile the list of some 250 journal references.

Although it is not an official compilation of recommended reading, its purpose is to create a realistic database to assist trainees in preparing for their examinations.

The list is available from the College, price £2.00.