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## DOCTORS WORKING FROM HOME

### Working from home: moral, physical, and clinical support are essential to staff wellbeing

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The “new normal” of doctors working from home has clear benefits, but Best’s enthusiastic portrayal does not consider some of the unforeseen consequences.<sup>1</sup>

People working in the acute setting share a spirit of comradeship and devotion to a purpose that they believe in. This “esprit de corps” is not possible if you are not present on the ward or physically not available. For some time, the modern NHS has been engaged in degradation of the firm.

Job plans rarely capture all the unforeseen work that occurs in an acute secondary care environment (and we suspect the same in primary care). Some juniors need help with putting a difficult cannula in. The presence of consultants on the wards allows moral, physical, and clinical support for juniors, nurses, and allied healthcare professionals. This camaraderie is essential to the wellbeing of the staff in the NHS. It’s what got us through the pandemic in the first place.

What we need most of all from senior doctors in this post-pandemic era is compassionate leadership.<sup>2</sup> We struggle to believe that this can be achieved when working from home.

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<sup>1</sup> Best J. Remote working in medicine: the good, the bad, and the barriers. *BMJ* 2022;379:. doi: 10.1136/bmj.o2127 PMID: 36323426

<sup>2</sup> What is compassionate leadership? King’s Fund. <https://www.kingsfund.org.uk/publications/what-is-compassionate-leadership>