The future of general practice: more elderly, less money, and scattered computers

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British Medical Journal. London. 9/12/83. 1597-1600

What Annoys Me Most

The telephone

OLIVER SAMUEL

What annoys me most about general practice is that it is so often forgotten in the list of priorities for health-care resources. As the cost of living rises, the need for health services also increases, but the resources available are often insufficient. This situation is particularly acute in remote and rural areas.

Despite these challenges, there is a strong sense of community among general practitioners. We are all aware of the importance of good communication and cooperation. One of the things that most annoys me is the lack of appreciation for the role of the telephone.

The telephone is an essential tool for general practitioners. It enables us to maintain contact with our patients and to manage our practices effectively. However, in many cases, the telephone is not used to its full potential. This can lead to frustration and annoyance for both general practitioners and their patients.

The telephone is used to consult patients, to arrange appointments, to provide medical advice, and to coordinate care. It is also used to communicate with other health-care professionals, such as nurses, pharmacists, and specialists.

One of the most frustrating aspects of using the telephone is the amount of time and effort required to make and receive calls. This can be a significant time burden, especially for practices with a large number of patients.

Another issue that can cause annoyance is the lack of clear and concise information on the telephone. This can make it challenging for patients to understand their medical condition and the treatment options available.

Over the years, there have been many improvements in telephone technology. However, the challenge of effective communication remains. As the needs of patients evolve, so too must the way in which we use the telephone.

Research Practice

Evaluation of screening for hypertension in general practice with an automatic machine

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Abstract

An automatic device for measuring blood pressure was evaluated in general practice. It was found to be an acceptable screening device with satisfactory reproducibility and good correlation with manual and other automated methods. The device was used in a large number of general practices and showed good agreement with manual readings.

The results of the study demonstrated that the device is a valuable tool for the early detection of hypertension in general practice. The device is simple to use and does not require specialized training. It can be used by both medical practitioners and non-medical staff.

The results also highlighted the importance of routine screening for hypertension in general practice. The device is an effective tool for identifying individuals at risk of developing hypertension, which can then be referred for further investigation.

The study was conducted in a large number of general practices across the country. The results are applicable to other general practices and can be used to inform the implementation of hypertension screening programs.

How to change

The most appropriate approach to changing the culture of the general practice was to educate the staff about the importance of hypertension screening. Training seminars were arranged and attendance was mandatory for all staff.

The staff were also encouraged to participate in the quality improvement program. This included regular audits of blood pressure measurements and feedback sessions to discuss results.

The introduction of the automatic device for measuring blood pressure was well received by the staff and patients. The device was easy to use and reliable, leading to improved accuracy and efficiency.

The study provided valuable insights into the role of automatic devices in general practice. Further research is needed to explore the potential of these devices in other clinical settings and populations.