



ROYAL COLLEGE OF  
PHYSICIANS AND  
SURGEONS OF GLASGOW

## **A&E capacity in Scotland**

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**The capacity of Accident and Emergency Departments in Scottish hospitals is a consequence of multiple issues and will not be resolved with a single measure.**

Many patients who are referred to, or present at, A&E departments do not need to be there. A combined approach including better integration of health and social care along with earlier detection of illness and better preventative strategies are needed to reduce the strain on our hospitals. This includes targeting our culture of excessive alcohol consumption, smoking, lack of exercise and poor dental health, along with improvements in the early detection of cancer.

Reduced hospital bed numbers without question adds to the pressure on A&E departments, as do the challenges of discharging patients who need support in the community which is not available on a 24/7 basis.

The reduced willingness of trainees to work in emergency departments is also adding pressure on A&E admissions. We support calls by the College of Emergency Medicine for safe and sustainable working patterns for trainees and consultants across the specialties to be able to provide clinical care and time for supervision which reflects the intensity of the work they do.

We are currently involved in discussions with the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges and the Federation of Royal Colleges of Physicians of the UK about these issues.