

Medical studies in France

Basic Medical Education

6 years curriculum:

First 3 years: fundamental sciences and semiology,

Last 3 years: certificates of specialities and half time hospital training; only 1 seminar about General Practice

7300 successful medical students in 2nd year in 2008 (Numerus Clausus)

Specific vocational training

3 years curriculum:

6 months in General Practice training under direct supervision

6 months in General practice under indirect supervision (not mandatory)

24 months in hospital training

150 hours of specific courses about diagnostic process and therapeutic strategies in common situations (EBM?)

Thesis

Each year, about 1 000 students opt for vocational training in General Practice

Medical Practice in France

65 000 GPs

Ambulatory practice in private offices

Fee for services

On average, 5000 consultations/year/GP

The general practitioner is the first access to care. He guides the patient towards specialist care if necessary.

Some guide-lines about Primary Care

Personal evaluation of professional practice is recommended.

Continuing Medical Education

Methods

Individual or collective tools, upon a free choice basis

Each GP collects credits by getting involved in training courses, individual or e-training, research and publications, own professional daily practice assessment (minimum 250 credits for a 5 year period)

Providers:

- Local, regional or national GPs associations, organisations and trade unions
- Universities
- Pharmaceutical companies

Financed by either national insurance participation, personal contribution of each doctor or pharmaceutical companies