

ABSTRACT

A Manpower Survey of the Anaesthetic Services in Guyana - 1994

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The aim of this thesis was to determine the manpower resources and the quality of care in the anaesthetic departments of the public hospitals in Guyana. It also examined the material and technical resources which were available to support the anaesthetic services. The objective was to outline current practice patterns in order to establish a baseline upon which a plan for improved and expanded services could be founded. The methodology used was in the form of questionnaires and direct interviews, collecting data from the providers and users of the service. A major limitation of the study was the rudimentary management information system in the tertiary health service. Due to the relatively small sample size: eight hospitals, 18 Anaesthetic Care Providers (two specialists), and 30 surgeons, (18 specialists), statistical inference could not be obtained, the analysis indicating only a general trend.

The alarming results, which demonstrated multiple deficiencies in the quality of anaesthetic care, are related to the level of training and the severe constraints under which the majority of Anaesthetic Care Providers operate.

Several recommendations are proposed to upgrade the anaesthetic services as well as suggestions on how these could be implemented. Many initiatives have been taken by the Ministry of Health to improve the quality of health care in general. The anaesthetic services in particular are in need of serious and urgent reform. If some priority is not given to this field of medicine, the consequences will continue to be significant.