[Reasons for General Practitioner Shortage – a Comparison Between France and Switzerland]

Thomas Cerny, Thomas Rosemann, Ryan Tandjung & Corinne Chmiel

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES
Both France and Switzerland face a general practitioner (GP) shortage. What differences or parallels exist between the two countries with regard to the causes for this shortage? What conclusions might be drawn from a systematic comparison?

METHODS
Literature review with qualitative and semi-quantitative content analysis.

RESULTS
Parallels exist in the comparing categories work contents, working structure, income and social status, medical school formation, private life, psychological motives. Differences are found in the categories biography and social selection, medical socialisation, residency. In Switzerland, residency is not uniformly structured, rarely institutionally organised and contains only few elements specific to general medicine. In France, medical socialisation not only exalts the specialists, but also strongly devaluates the GPs.

CONCLUSIONS
By systematic analysis and comparison of both countries’ pertinent literature, France and Switzerland can deepen their understanding of GP shortage. This paper identifies possible fields of action from medical school through residency up to workplace conditions that are pivotal in addressing the shortage of GPs.

type journal paper/review

date of publishing 25-5-2016

journal title Praxis (Bern 1994) (105/11)

ISSN print 1661-8157

pages 619-36