



# The changing face of renal medicine in the UK

## The future of the specialty

---

This report considers the many issues which will alter the future of renal medicine. Working patterns for renal physicians are likely to change substantially as collaborative services are developed with primary care, palliative care, and other specialist teams. Multiprofessional team-working continues to expand, challenging long-established medical roles and expectations of young doctors are changing. This report is designed to make sure that the next generation of renal physicians is trained to meet these challenges.

Recommendations include expanding services in locality renal networks, including consultant numbers; ensuring wider availability of high-quality care close to people's homes; encouraging staff grade and associate specialist doctors to join the Specialist Register; and promoting renal medicine as a career by ensuring a positive experience for medical students and Foundation Year trainees.

This is a time of exciting change in renal medicine. The publication of National Service Frameworks for Renal Services in England and Wales in recent

years has offered a unique opportunity to develop the provision of high-quality patient-centred renal services.

The report is essential reading for all those concerned about the future of services for people with renal disease, and will assist the training and development of the physicians who lead these services. It is directed at clinicians, government, commissioners of renal services, NHS trusts who provide renal services, locality renal networks, kidney patient associations and those concerned with the training of renal physicians.

### Report of a Working Party

## Contents

- **Background and remit**
- **Provision of renal services in the UK**
- **Medical staffing of renal units**
- **Provision of patient-centred care**
- **Commissioning of renal services**
- **Appendix: Witnesses**

