“Something for the weekend”

Ben Darebefore

No, no, no, no, no, no, no, NO... Been there, done that, haven’t got the t-shirt because I don’t need any reminders of what it was like before I did what I tell my ‘heartsink’ patients to do, and got a life. So no, I’m not going to extend my hours.

I’m old enough to remember (and young enough such that I can remember, for that matter) what it was like to do my own on-call, and to offer Saturday morning emergency clinics in the naive belief that this would give me a better chance of having some time for myself on the weekend. Of course, this never really happened. Even my idea of putting “Resus Annie” in the waiting room to teach patients what a real emergency was sadly backfired. The sods would pop their head round the door on Saturday morning, see that there was at least one other patient in the waiting room, and toddle on home, stopping only to put the kettle on before phoning for a home visit. Those with mobile phones would call for the same on their way home, the background sounds of “Do you want fries with that?” giving the game away somewhat and causing me to conjure up ideas of what I’d like to do to them that would have made the crimes on fries with that? giving the game away somewhat and causing me to conjure up ideas of what I’d like to do to them that would have made the crimes on. So I gave up trying to explain what a real emergency was; it was quicker just to write a prescription and get them out the door.

And while we’re talking about the weekend? I gave up trying to explain what a real emergency was; it was quicker just to write a prescription and get them out the door.

Yes, and I know my nurses, staff and the others can’t wait to start earlier, go home later, and spend Saturday morning hearing about someone’s hangover when they’d rather be at home dealing with their own.

And what about extended hours during the day? We know the longer a person works the greater the risk of mistakes. Let’s face it, I find putting on the golf course difficult at the best of times. How on earth am I going to accurately fit an IUD after teatime?

Has no one thought this through, because it’s not only us GPs who should be considered. As we’re told time and again, general practice is more than just the doctor. Yes, and I know my nurses, staff and the others can’t wait to start earlier, go home later, and spend Saturday morning hearing about someone’s hangover when they’d rather be at home dealing with their own.

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