

British Doctors' Drink and Drug Problem

The British medical profession has a drink and drug problem, according to a BBC television documentary aired on June 13. Alcohol and substance abuse is becoming disturbingly common among Britain's medical practitioners. The programme claimed that one in 15 doctors and nurses, about 13,000 in total, has an addiction. The BBC discovered that in the past decade, 750 medical staff have been formally disciplined and reprimanded for being drunk or under the influence of drugs while on duty. Reporters also found the medical profession has issued no clear rules governing how much doctors are allowed to drink before going to work.

Dr. Michael Wilks, chairman of the British Medical Association's ethics committee, confessed to reporters that doctors needed to acknowledge the fact they had a problem and address the pertinent issues. Dr. Vivienne Nathanson warned that misuse or dependence on alcohol and drugs would adversely affect patient care.

Source: www.breakingnewsenglish.com

Vocabulary

reprimanded - to tell somebody that you do not approve of their actions

pertinent - appropriate to a particular situation

adversely - in a way that is harmful or likely to cause problems

Comprehension Questions

1. What is becoming common among Britain's medical practitioners?
2. How many medical staff have been formally disciplined for being drunk or under the influence of drugs while on duty?

You can see the whole lesson from your teacher, please ask them to send it to you before the class.

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