

Written questions members Island Council for the Executive Council/ Government Commissioners.
(art.159, lid 1 WolBES/ art. 46 RvO Islandcouncil)

Issue : Queen Beatrix Medical Center (QBMC)
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Sender : Rechelline Leerdam
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Questions

1. Why is the wait time to see a doctor typically over 10 days or more?

Waiting time vary, in general, for the following reasons:

- Certain patients want to be seen by a specific doctor of their choice. If that doctor is the most popular, then it will be more difficult to get an appointment for that doctor.
- There are many patients who occupy a spot by the doctor for reasons that can be dealt with over the phone, or through other means. Such as bringing a letter from a specialist, discussing / requesting a check-up, discussing a referral or a ZVK related matter, requesting a refill, etc. These are matters that do not need to occupy a clinic spot but the doctor can deal with these matters after the clinic is done at 15:00.
- In the Netherlands, for example, the consultation time by the doctor is 10 minutes. Therefore, the doctor can see more patients on a daily basis. The patient can then only discuss one main complaint per visit. On Statia, we have noticed that that won't work, so we opted to have 15 minutes per consultation. That means that on a daily basis the doctor working the same 6 hours (remaining work time is for administration, referrals, etc.) in the Netherlands can see about 30 patients and here it would be 24. That adds up after a while.
- Training and meetings are planned as much as possible outside of the clinic times but sometimes it cannot be planned otherwise.

2. Is there a shortage in medical practitioners?

There is no shortage of doctors. We have the amount of doctors needed to carry the patient load on the island. Eventhough due to covid, we have to bring in some substitute doctors, we always make sure to have the required amount of doctors (at least 3) present on the island.

3. If so what is the reason for this shortage?

Not applicable. See answer 2.

4. What are the possibilities of getting more qualified doctors within the region?

Since the change in constitutional status on October 10th 2010, certain medical professionals working on the BES islands must be registered in the B.I.G. registry in the Netherlands. This includes doctors, midwives and dentists, to mention a few. So all doctors coming to the island to work, must be 'B.I.G. geregistreerd' and must also receive a letter of exemption from the Ministry of VWS allowing them to work on the BES islands.