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Increasing needs and expectations - challenges to the future primary care sector

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Across Europe we are now face with unprecedented levels of multimorbidity, increased clinical complexity and rising patient demand. As GPs we are working in a system of industrialised practice that measures efficiency as throughput, process, and the immediate satisfaction of wants and needs. At the same time a recent Commonwealth Fund report showed that UK GPs are amongst the most stressed in the developed world with the majority of GPs dissatisfied with the amount of time they spend with each patient. The UK target of the 10 minute consultation was proposed back in 1973 as the first step towards creating the sort of care we would expect for ourselves. Drawing on the best available evidence I will examine whether the time GPs across Europe currently spend with patients is sufficient to meet patient need.