

Supplementary materials

Questionnaire

Emergency in Emergency Rooms: What Doctors Think

Dear colleague, this anonymous survey promoted by SIMEU Tuscany aims to capture the reality of Emergency Rooms and the intentions of the doctors who work or have worked in them. We ask for 3 minutes of your time to help us reveal the real situation and propose concrete solutions. The opinion of us doctors is important: is it still possible to save the Emergency Room?

SECTION 1: Participant Profile

1. What is your current status? *(Mark only one oval)*

- Resident (Specializzando)
- Resident hired on a fixed-term contract
- Newly qualified specialist (up to 5 years since specialization)
- Senior specialist (over 5 years of experience in ER)
- I no longer work in the ER

2. Age: *(Mark only one oval)*

- < 40
- 40-50
- 50-60
- > 60

3. In which region is the ER where you work/worked located? *(Mark only one oval)*

- Tuscany
- Other regions

4. Type of hospital where you work/worked: *(Mark only one oval)*

- Emergency Room (without DEA/Department of Emergency & Acceptance)
- Level I DEA
- Level II DEA

SECTION 2: Retention and Perspectives

5. Are you currently working in the ER? *(Mark only one oval)*

- Yes
- No, I have already left
- No, but I still perform Emergency Medicine activities in another context

6. Which of the following options best describes your current situation regarding ER work?
(Mark only one oval)

- I work in the ER and do not plan to leave
- I work in the ER but I am considering leaving
- I work in the ER but I have already decided to leave
- I work in the ER but I already have an alternative ready (another contract, scholarship, specialty, etc.)
- I have already left the ER
- I have never worked in the ER

7. If you still work in the ER, why haven't you left (yet)? *(Mark only one oval)*

- By choice, I still believe in the profession
- Out of a sense of responsibility towards colleagues and patients
- Due to economic necessities (mortgage, family, etc.)
- Because I am close to retirement
- Because I haven't found a concrete alternative yet

8. If you are thinking about or organizing to leave, within what timeframe do you plan to do so?
(Mark only one oval)

- Within 6 months
- Within 1 year
- Within 2 years
- I do not have a precise timeframe

SECTION 3: Working Conditions

9. What are the main sources of discomfort in your work in the ER? (Select up to 3) *(Select all applicable items)*

- Excessive shifts and workload
- Inadequate salary
- Verbal or physical aggression/assaults
- Improper access / management of non-urgent cases
- Boarding / management of patients waiting for admission
- Lack of staff and high turnover
- Excessive litigation/legal disputes
- Other:

10. How sustainable do you consider your current workload to be over the next 3 years? *(Mark only one oval)*

- Sustainable
- Barely sustainable
- Unsustainable

11. If you have already left the ER: what was the main reason that led you to do so? (Select up to 2) *(Select all applicable items)*

- Excessive shifts / quality of life
- Low salary
- Hostile environment / aggression
- Lack of career prospects
- Activities not within the competence of Emergency Medicine
- Other:

SECTION 4: Future Vision

12. What could make Emergency Medicine more attractive for young colleagues? (Select up to 2 options) *(Select all applicable items)*

- Salary adjustment
- Greater safety and protection at work
- More balanced and flexible shifts

- Career opportunities and continuous training
- Strengthening of multi-professional teams (reduction of improper tasks)
- Other:

13. In light of your experience, would you recommend a young doctor to embark on a career in Emergency Medicine? *(Mark only one oval)*

- Yes
- No

14. (Optional) Do you have any further comments or proposals to share?