Planning rotas is an essential part of organising the medical workforce. Junior Doctor rotas can be particularly challenging as they need to comply with different sets of rules: the New Deal contract / the New 2016 junior doctors’ contract and the European Working Time Directive (EWTD) legislation, all specifying different rules and regulations for compliance.

The challenge with rotas

Non-compliance with the New Deal / 2016 Contract can lead to doctors recording monitoring breach or exception report that could result in a financial penalty.

The system of exception reporting outlined in the 2016 contract replaces the previous banding appeal process that resulted in doctors being awarded costly Band 3 Penalty payments. Despite banding’s replacement, exception reporting maintains a financial risk to trusts should departures from planned working hours occur.

Fines will be levied when working hours breach one or more of the following contractual rules:

- The 48 hour average weekly working limit
- Contractual limit on maximum of 72 hours worked within any consecutive 7-day period
- Minimum 11-hour rest has been reduced to less than 8 hours
- Where meal breaks are missed on more than 25 per cent of occasions

Where the Guardian of Safe Working validates an exception report, financial penalties are levied against the department where the doctor works; the fine will be set at four times the basic or enhanced rate of pay applicable at the time of the breach. The doctor will receive 1.5 times the applicable locum rate with the remainder of the penalty amount at the Guardian’s discretion for distribution.

Allocate’s rota management software eRota is the perfect solution for creating compliant rotas which meet the requirements of the New Deal / 2016 junior doctors’ contract at the same time as EWTD, and tailors them to service and training needs. A clear interface and a host of user-friendly features allow you to create a bespoke solution that works for your set of doctors. eRota enables you to anticipate rule breaches and so avoid significant unexpected costs that may arise from non-compliance.

Key benefits

- Simple ‘Rota Convert’ function that means new deal rotas can be converted to 2016 rules in an instant
- Accurate pay assessment for different rotas
- Identification of resources and hours available for service and training
- Transition - simple transition from rotas to leave, on call management and junior doctor rostering in MedicOnline
- Facilitation for Hospital at Night rotas
- An expert support team able to advise on the building of efficient and workable rotas
- Peace of mind regarding compliance with the New Deal / 2016 junior doctors’ contract and EWTD
- Global Rota Search - access to thousands of compliant live New Deal rota templates

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Exception Reporting

eRota contains significant new functionality to support the process of exception reporting, for both the doctor and Safety Guardian.

The purpose of exception reporting is to ensure prompt resolution and/or remedial action to ensure that safe working hours are maintained.

Our exception reporting software is designed to follow the contractual process as closely as possible. The tool has been designed to be fully responsive to any screen size, meaning that it works on both desktop and mobile environments that have internet connectivity.

The software provides supervisors, administrators and Guardians with an easy to use dashboard that displays and prioritises recorded exceptions, enabling them to make and communicate appropriate decisions at all review stages.

Our track record

Over 120 NHS trusts are using Allocate’s eRota. Over the last five years these clients have saved over £40 million through efficient rota-planning, equating to an average of approximately £400,000 per trust.

Training & Support

We understand it is not always possible for managers or clinicians to be experts in both the New Deal / 2016 Junior Doctor’s contract rules and EWTD regulations. With eRota, expert training and instant access to the Allocate HealthMedics help-desk comes as standard. If you need help with understanding policies, or building and managing rotas, you can be sure that our friendly specialists are always on hand to give you guidance and assistance. Allocate’s software remains the only of its kind to come with full-time access to a dedicated, expert customer success team.

“eRota is a key tool for medical staffing management. It is comprehensive, easy to use and helps us build the most effective rotas to meet both our doctors and our organisational needs. Allocate’s responsiveness to update the system to meet the 2016 contract changes makes me feel we are in safe hands.”

Brian Jones, Medical Staffing Lead, Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust

eRota Capabilities

- A clear interface and a host of user friendly features allows you to create a bespoke solution that works for your set of doctors
- Option to build new rotas from scratch for both New Deal / 2016 Junior Doctor contract as well as use previous successful templates from our extensive database for compliant New Deal rotas
- Rota Convert function converts new deal rotas into 2016 rules
- Access to a dedicated support team providing help and guidance at all stages of the process
- Separate New Deal / 2016 Junior Doctor contract and EWTD calculations
- The ability to build simple and complex rotas for New Deal rotas
- New estimated costing for 2016 Junior Doctor contract rotas using the new pay structure
- Ability for doctors to record exceptions in real time through secure online accounts

To see a demo of eRota please email healthmedics@allocatesoftware.com or contact your Allocate account manager.