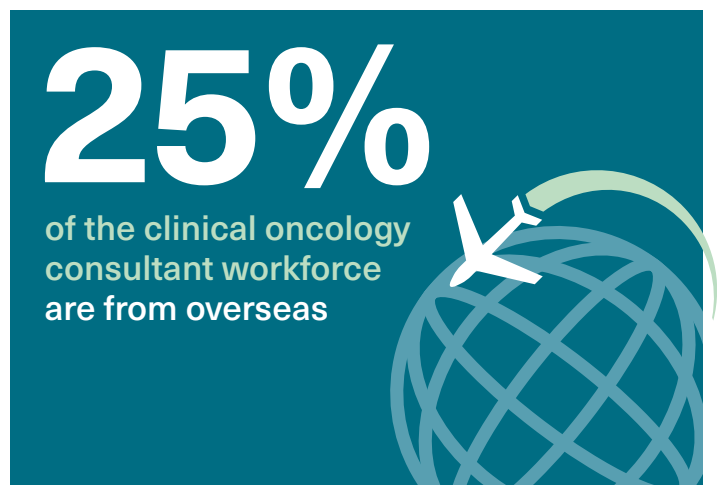
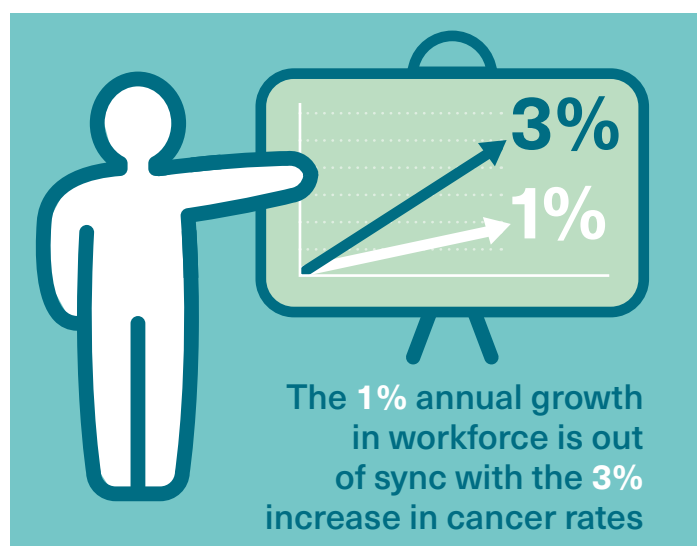


# The clinical oncology UK workforce census 2016

These key findings highlight the growing workforce crisis in clinical oncology



78 additional full-time consultants required to cover the excess workload undertaken by the current workforce



# The workforce in numbers a looming shortage of cancer doctors

The Government must boost the number of clinical oncologists and invest in the wider oncology workforce as cancer prevalence increases. The Royal College of Radiologists' (RCR) 2016 census figures indicate that the UK's clinical oncology consultant workforce remains under serious strain, with overworked doctors, difficulty filling vacancies and not enough trainees.

The number of full-time clinical oncologists in permanent posts grew by 1.4% last year. This growth in workforce is insufficient to meet the demands of an ever more complex workload. Patient numbers are increasing as a result of the aging population and the availability of more advanced cancer treatments.

Adding to the strain on the service, many departments are struggling to recruit. Vacancy rates have increased from 3% in 2015 to 5% in 2016.

This situation is likely to continue, if not worsen, given the difficulty in filling clinical oncology training places. In 2016, one in five oncology training places was unfilled.

In an effort to keep up with the workload, consultant clinical oncologists are working additional programmed activities (PAs). Ten PAs per week represents a full-time role, but 2016 census data indicates that clinical oncologists in the UK are working an average

of 11 PAs per week (an increase from 10.7 PAs per week in 2015). This is equivalent to the work of an additional 78 full-time consultants.

The RCR is calling on the Government to invest urgently in the oncology workforce to ensure that patients continue to receive the cancer services they deserve.