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UK NEWS

German doctors sought in Britain

By UPI

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LONDON, England (UPI) -- German physicians are being solicited by British recruiting agencies to cover for British general practitioners who don't work on weekends.

The German Medical Association says some 2,600 German doctors are flying regularly to Britain on budget air carriers to meet the demand, the Guardian reported Friday.

Figures from Britain's General Medical Council show there are 3,764 German doctors, mostly GPs, registered to work in Britain. In parts of the country they can earn as much as about \$4,000 for a weekend's work, the report said.

Some British doctors are concerned the unprecedented recruitment drive and influx of doctors from Germany and elsewhere on the continent is contributing to problems in the system.

Under GP contracts introduced last year, family doctors can opt out of providing evening and weekend cover for patients, with the responsibility passing on to primary care trusts. A British health department spokesman insisted that patients are getting a better service under the new system.

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