



JOB of the Week



Job name: General Practitioner (GP)

Job description: As a general practice doctor you're the first healthcare professional a patient sees. Your work plays an important role in getting them the treatment they need. General practitioners (GPs) provide continuing medical care for patients in the community. They're usually a patient's first point of contact, seeing them in the surgery, at their home or within other settings such as care homes.

When diagnosing illness and recommending treatment, you'll have to take into account physical, emotional and social factors to provide a holistic approach. Part of your role will be to refer patients to hospital clinics for further assessment or treatment and you may also run specialist clinics for patients with specific conditions, such as asthma. You'll work in a team with other healthcare professionals to discuss care options for patients and their families, helping patients to take responsibility for their own health. All GPs need to carry out admin work, but if you're a partner in a practice you'll be heavily involved in business functions, such as employing staff, managing contracts and working within strict budgets.

Tasks you will undertake in the job: As a GP, you'll need to:

- respond to patients' medical/health problems by referring to their history and carrying out diagnosis, investigation, treatment and referral as appropriate
- maintain confidentiality and impartiality
- liaise with medical professionals in the community and hospitals
- promote health education in conjunction with other health professionals and organise preventative medical programmes for individual patients and keep up to date with medical developments, new drugs, treatments and medications
- provide specialist clinics for specific conditions or for certain groups, e.g. diabetes, smoking cessation and new babies and meet targets set by the government for specific treatments, such as child immunisations
- discuss the development of new pharmaceutical products with pharmaceutical sales representatives
- carry out a range of administrative work, including signing repeat prescriptions, death certificates and fitness for work statements, as well as preparing letters and reports
- attend staff meetings

Qualifications you will need for this job: You must complete:

a degree in medicine recognised by the General Medical Council (GMC) and a two-year foundation programme of general training / specialist training in general practice.

Medical degrees are available at undergraduate level and usually take five to six years to complete. If you've already got a degree in a subject other than medicine (a 2:1 or above in a science-related subject) you can apply for a four-year accelerated graduate entry medicine programme, also known as a graduate entry programme (GEP). The British Medical Association has further information about applying to medical school as a graduate.

Entry into medicine is competitive, and your motivation and commitment are rigorously assessed. Most medical schools will expect you to take one of the following tests: University Clinical Aptitude Test (UCAT) - the most widely used test / BioMedical Admissions Test (BMAT) / Graduate Medical School Admissions Test (GAMSAT) - mainly used by medical schools that offer the GEP.

Skills required for this job (core competencies):

Communication	Resilience	Organisation	Teamwork
Problem Solving	Initiative	Creativity	Digital literacy

Sectors in which General Practitioners would normally work: It is likely that you'll work within an NHS practice trust as a GP, although there are opportunities to work in private practice as well. There are a limited number of jobs for GPs in the armed forces, with some possibility of working overseas. You can also find work in the Civil Service, in settings such as prisons. Many medical charities, both in the UK and overseas, offer posts for trained GPs, whether early in your career to gain experience, or later when you have experience to offer.

Skills: You'll need to have:

compassion, resourcefulness, stamina, motivation and perseverance
the ability to work within a multidisciplinary team of healthcare professionals
excellent listening and communication skills for dealing with patients
leadership skills, especially if working as a partner in a practice and the ability to work under pressure and deal with different demands
good IT skills for keeping patient records and time management skills
a flexible approach to work and the ability to manage change and business skills if running a practice as a partner.



Salary: Average salary for a General Practitioner is £64 480, average salary in the UK is

£28 758 (GP partners earn a % of the profit for a practice)


Junior doctors start on £27 689



Working hours: 34 average working hours in the week (37.5 working hours in the average working week)

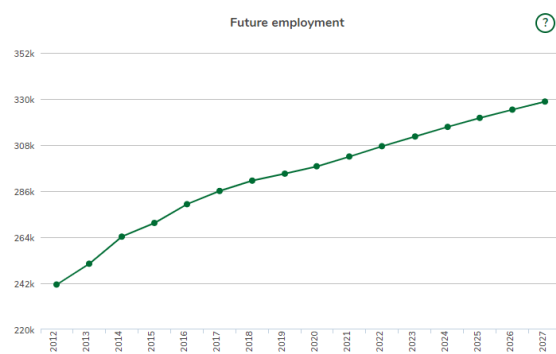
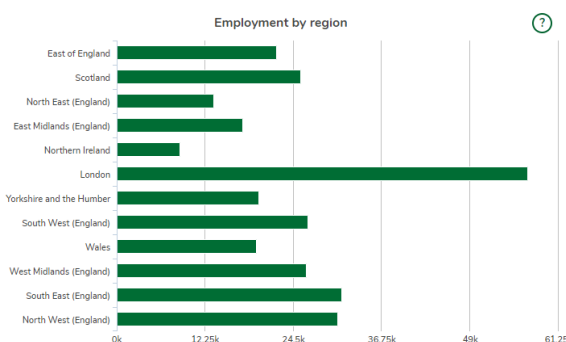
often 8 am – 6:30pm. Some work will be on Saturdays and in evening surgeries, work can be flexible

Workforce in the UK: 46% male / 54% female workforce

Work experience: Entry to medical school is competitive and work experience or a placement in a caring or health environment is expected to get a place. This is to show that you have an understanding of what working in medicine is like and that you appreciate the emotional and physical demands, as well as the skills required. Relevant work experience can be carried out in hospitals and GP practices, hospices and care homes or any other environment that involves caring for people. If possible, try to get experience that involves contact with patients and doctors or other healthcare professionals. Work shadowing or observing doctors can also be helpful to get an idea of what the work involves. Contact your local hospital to try and get some work or shadowing experience. Some NHS Trusts will advertise volunteer opportunities through the Do-it volunteering database. 

This job in the future:

The workforce is projected to grow by 10.4%, creating 30 900 jobs; in the same period, 54.5% of the workforce is likely to retire, creating 162 500 job opportunities.



www.icould.com

www.successatschool.org

www.nationalcareers.service.gov.uk

www.prospects.ac.uk/jobs-and-work-experience/job-sectors

www.ucas.com/careers-advice

www.kudos/cascaid.co.uk/#/ (you all have a log on for this service)

www.careersbox.co.uk (careers videos)



Helpful sites for careers information
GAT careers links

<http://airhead.io/public/launchpads/XqbuOMJgb0OfqvMPCykzA>



