

Compare roles in health

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- **Paediatric surgery** ^[1]

Paediatric surgeons work with young patients – from premature and unborn babies to children and young adults up to the age of 19.

Training and qualifications required

Training usually starts with a five year first degree in medicine and two years of foundation training. You'll then do two years of core surgery training (CT1-2) leading to Membership of the Royal College of Surgeons (MRCS) and five years of specialist training (ST3-7). This period of training will include completing your royal college exams. Length of training can vary according to your circumstances.

Expected working hours and salary range

Doctors may work up to 48 hours a week. The working hours may sometimes extend beyond the normal working day to include early mornings, evenings and weekends. You'll first earn a salary when you start your foundation training after medical school. The basic salary ranges from £29,384 to £34,012. Once you start your specialty training as a paediatric surgeon employed by the NHS, you can expect to earn a salary of at least £40,257, which can increase to between £84,559 and £114,003 as a consultant.

Desirable skills and values

You'll need excellent communication skills and be emotionally resilient, have a calm temperament and the ability to work well under pressure. You'll have the capacity to lead multidisciplinary teams and have excellent problem-solving and diagnostic skills. As a paediatric surgeon, you'll have: a high degree of manual dexterity; superb hand-eye co-ordination; excellent vision; visuospatial awareness and the physical stamina to cope with the demands of surgery.

Prospects

In 2021, there were 205 paediatric surgeons working in the NHS in England. In addition, there were 80 applications for 12 specialty training places. You could specialise or conduct research in areas such as neonatal surgery, paediatric urology, and paediatric oncology, teach students or get involved in research.

Related roles

- Paediatrician ^[2]
- General surgery ^[3]
- Dermatology ^[4]
- Clinical bioinformatics health informatics ^[5]

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