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- ### Chemical pathology [1]

Chemical pathology doctors combine laboratory and clinical skills, using biochemical laboratory tests to diagnose disease and manage patients.

Training and qualifications required

You'll follow a set pattern of training which usually starts with a five year first degree in medicine and two years of foundation training. You will then undertake five years of specialist training (ST1-5). 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 doctor in chemical pathology 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 to manage a wide range of relationships with colleagues, and patients and their families. You'll be emotionally resilient, have excellent problem-solving and diagnostic skills and work well in teams and under pressure. You'll also be very organised for the benefit of patients.

Prospects

In 2021, there were 104 chemical pathology consultants working in the NHS in England. In addition, there were 16 applications for 11 specialty training places. You could specialise or conduct research in areas such as metabolic bone disease or inherited metabolic disease (IMD), teach medical students or postgraduate students in training or get involved in research at universities, the NHS or private sector.

Related roles

- Endocrinology and diabetes [2]
- Microbiology (healthcare scientist) [3]
- Haematology (doctor) [4]
- Histopathology (doctor) [5]

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