

Compare roles in health

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Pharmaceutical medicine [1]

Doctors working in pharmaceutical medicine develop, evaluate and market new medicines for the benefit of patients and the health of the community.

Training and qualifications required

Training usually starts with a five year first degree in medicine. 2 years foundation doctor training, 2 years core training (CT1-2), followed by 4 years specialists training (ST3-6). This period of training will include your royal college exams. Length of training can vary according to your circumstances.

Expected working hours and salary range

Most pharmaceutical medicine roles for doctors are available outside the NHS, for example in research organisations, medical regulatory bodies, independent practitioners and the pharmaceutical industry. Doctors in the NHS may work up to 48 hours a week. The basic salary for NHS doctors ranges from £29,384 to £34,012. Once you start your specialty training as a 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

You could teach medical or postgraduate students and clinical trials teams, specialise in laboratory-based or clinical research-based projects related to products, product classes or therapy areas conduct specialist research or work outside medical departments in medico-legal, communications or economic disciplines in pharmaceutical companies or regulatory organisations.

Related roles

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