

Compare roles in health

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Clinical pharmacology and therapeutics [1]

Clinical pharmacology and therapeutics doctors promote and ensure the safe, economic and efficient use of medicines to improve patient care.

Training and qualifications required

Training usually starts with a five year first degree in medicine. Then there's two years foundation doctor training, two years core training (CT1-CT2), followed by four years specialists training (ST3-ST6) leading to Fellowship of the Royal College of Physicians (FRCP). 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 clinical pharmacology 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 20 consultants in clinical pharmacology and therapeutics in NHS England. Many more work for pharmaceutical companies or in academic posts. In 2020, there were 12 applications for 14 training places. You could specialise in toxicology or cardiovascular risk management, conduct research or teach medical students and postgraduate students in training.

Related roles

- General internal medicine [2]
- Geriatric medicine [3]
- Pharmaceutical medicine [4]
- Cardiologist [5]

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