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Old age psychiatry

Old age psychiatrists provide specialist and holistic [1] assessment, treatment and ongoing care for older people experiencing mental health problems such as dementia, personality disorders and schizophrenia.

You'll work with patients experiencing cognitive problems and psychological problems because of the ageing process.

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Download transcript [4]

In this video Dr Alex Bailey, Consultant old age psychiatrist, gives an insight into his working life and also the nature of the demands and rewards that come from working in the community with elderly people and the type of person that it would suit as a career.

Life as an old age psychiatrist

A patient's mental health can be affected by any physical problems they experience, which is why NHS old age psychiatrists take a holistic [1] approach and need a sound knowledge of general medicine. Old age psychiatry is considered the most 'medical' of psychiatric specialties.

You'll need detailed knowledge of the way in which older people metabolise medication, since this can change as part of the aging process. The interaction of physical health medications, as well as the high rate of polypharmacy [5] (use of multiple medicines) in this population, means that you'll also need a high level of pharmacological expertise.

As part of a holistic [1] approach, you'll need to understand the legal and philosophical issues regarding, for example, human rights, end-of-life decisions and informed consent. As an old age psychiatrist, you'll balance clinical decisions with ethics.

Common mental health disorders you'll treat include:

- · cognitive impairment
- dementia
- functional disorders (such as depression or psychosis)
- organic disorders (such as memory loss)

- · personality disorders
- schizophrenia

Mental health and social problems often go hand-in-hand. Consequently, you'll collaborate widely, for example with GPs, occupational therapists and voluntary organisations.

The emphasis is on care in the community and delivering care that allows a patient to remain living at home. You'll need to work closely with a patient's family and carers, promoting independence and choice.

Mental health problems in older people differ greatly compared to the younger population. And with an aging population and an increase in dementia and mental health problems, there is a growing demand for first-class old age psychiatrists.

How much can I earn?

You'll first earn a salary when you start your <u>foundation training</u> [6] after medical school. Find out details of current salary ranges for foundation and specialty training, <u>SAS doctors</u> [7] and consultants on the 'Pay for doctors' [8] page.

How about the benefits?

- make a difference
- · flexible and part-time working
- high income early in your career
- work anywhere in the world
- excellent pension scheme
- good holiday entitlement
- NHS discounts in shops and restaurants

Must-have skills?

- excellent communication skills to manage a wide range of relationships with colleagues, and patients and their families
- emotional resilience, a calm temperament and the ability to work well under pressure
- teamwork and the capacity to lead multidisciplinary teams
- problem-solving and diagnostic skills
- outstanding?organisational?ability and effective decision-making skills
- first-class time and resource management for the benefit of patients

In addition, old age psychiatrists need to demonstrate:

- empathy and compassion and the ability to treat others with understanding and respect
- a holistic [1] approach to medicine and ability to apply medical and psychiatric skills
- excellent listening skills
- to be willing to build relationships with their patients

Entry requirements

Your first step is medical school. Typically, you'll need excellent GCSEs and?three A or A* passes at A level including chemistry for a five-year undergraduate degree in medicine. Many medical schools also ask for biology and others may require?maths?or physics.

If you already have a degree, you could study for a four-year postgraduate degree in medicine.

You'll need to pass an interview and admissions test.?You'll be asked to show how you demonstrate the NHS values such as compassion and respect.

Some medical schools look to recruit a mix of students from different backgrounds and geographical areas, so your educational and economic background and family circumstances could be considered as part of your application.

How to become an old age psychiatrist

After medical school, you'll join the paid two-year <u>foundation?programme</u> [9]?where you'll work in six placements in different settings.

After your foundation programme, you can apply for paid <u>specialty training</u> [10] to become an old age psychiatrist, which will take a minimum of six years.

You may be able to train part time, for example for health reasons or if you have family or caring responsibilities.

What are my chances of starting a career in old age psychiatry?

In 2021, there were 529 consultants in old age psychiatry working in the NHS in England. In 2020, there were 57 applications for 60 training places.

Where a career as an old age psychiatrist can take you

You could:

- specialise or conduct research
- teach medical students or postgraduate students in training
- get involved in research at universities, the NHS or private sector
- Live vacancies

Find a vacancy

Enter your location or postcode

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Consultant Psychiatrist in Old Age Psychiatry

Bangor, LL57 2PW

Salary:

£106000.00 to £154760.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board

Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Psychiatrist in Old Age Psychiatry job (opens in a new window) [11]

Consultant Psychiatrist in Old Age Psychiatry

Pwllhelli, LL53 6TU

Salary:

£106000.00 to £154760.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board

Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Psychiatrist in Old Age Psychiatry job (opens in a new window) [12]

Consultant Psychiatry - Old Age

Oldham, OL1 2JU

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Pennine Care NHS FT

Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Psychiatry - Old Age job (opens in a new window) [13]

Consultant in Old Age Psychiatry

Haverfordwest, SA61 2PZ

Salary:

£106000.00 to £154760.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Hywel Dda University Health Board

Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant in Old Age Psychiatry job (opens in a new window) [14]

Consultant Psychiatrist in Community Old Age Psychiatry Peterborough

Peterborough, PE3 6DB

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough NHS Foundation Trust

Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Psychiatrist in Community Old Age

Psychiatry Peterborough job (opens in a new window) [15]

Speciality Doctor in Old Age Psychiatry

Corby, NN17 1RJ

Salary:

£59175.00 to £95400.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Northamptonshire Healthcare Foundation Trust

Apply now on NHS Jobs for Speciality Doctor in Old Age Psychiatry job (opens in a new window) [16]

Locum Consultant in Old Age Psychiatry

Haverfordwest, SA61 2PZ

Salary:

£116600.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Hywel Dda University Health Board

Apply now on NHS Jobs for Locum Consultant in Old Age Psychiatry job (opens in a new window) [17]

Consultant in old Age Psychiatry - Inpatient

Bodmin, PL31 2QN

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Cornwall Partnership NHS Foundation Trust

Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant in old Age Psychiatry - Inpatient job (opens in a new window) [18]

Consultant in Old Age Psychiatry, Salisbury

Salisbury, SP2 7FD

Salary:

£93666.00 to £126281.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Avon & Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust

Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant in Old Age Psychiatry, Salisbury job (opens in a new window) [19]

Consultant in Old Age Psychiatry - Ceredigion

Aberystwyth, SY23 1ER

Salary:

£106000.00 to £154760.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Hywel Dda University Health Board

Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant in Old Age Psychiatry - Ceredigion job (opens in a new window) [20]

Training Programme Director - Old Age Psychiatry (NW)

Manchester, M1 3BN

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Secondment

Employer:

NHS England

Apply now on NHS Jobs for Training Programme Director - Old Age Psychiatry (NW) job (opens in a new window) [21]

Training Programme Director - Old Age Psychiatry Mersey

Liverpool, L3 4BL

Salary:

£5000.00

Type:

Secondment

Employer:

NHS England

Apply now on NHS Jobs for Training Programme Director - Old Age Psychiatry Mersey job (opens in a new window) [22]

Locum Consultant in Old Age Psychiatry - Ceredigion

Aberystwyth, SY23 1ER

Salary:

£116600.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Hywel Dda University Health Board

Apply now on NHS Jobs for Locum Consultant in Old Age Psychiatry - Ceredigion job (opens in a new window) [23]

Consultant Psychiatrist - Old Age (Inpatients)

Southport, PR8 6PL

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust

Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Psychiatrist - Old Age (Inpatients) job (opens in a new window) [24]

o Consultant Old Age Psychiatrist in Universal Crisis Team

Sunderland, SR2 0NB

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne and wear (CNTW) NHS Foundation Trust Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Old Age Psychiatrist in Universal Crisis

Team job (opens in a new window) [25]

Consultant in Old Age Psychiatry, North Bucks OA CMHT

Aylesbury, HP20 1EG

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Oxford Health NHS Trust

Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant in Old Age Psychiatry, North Bucks OA CMHT job (opens in a new window) [26]

Consultant in Old Age Psychiatry Inpatient & Acute and Crisis

Gosport, PO12 3PW

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant in Old Age Psychiatry Inpatient & Acute and Crisis job (opens in a new window) [27]

Consultant Old Age Psychiatrist (woodlands)*with £20K Support Package*

Ipswich, IP4 5PD

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Norfolk & Suffolk Foundation NHS Trust

Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Old Age Psychiatrist (woodlands)*with £20K Support Package* job (opens in a new window) [28]

COMMUNITY OLD AGE CONSULTANT PSYCHIATRIST OACMHT – CENTRAL

Essex, RM3 0QA

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

NELFT North East London Foundation Trust

Apply now on NHS Jobs for COMMUNITY OLD AGE CONSULTANT

PSYCHIATRIST OACMHT - CENTRAL job (opens in a new window) [29]

Consultant Psychiatrist in Old Age: Community & Memory Clinic

Hertford, SG13 7HL

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Hertfordshire Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust

Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Psychiatrist in Old Age: Community & Memory Clinic job (opens in a new window) [30]

Consultant Psychiatrist Old Age Mental Health Liaison Team

Warrington, WA5 1QG

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust

Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Psychiatrist Old Age Mental Health Liaison Team job (opens in a new window) [31]

TPD for Psychiatry of Gen Adult & Old Age South East London

London, E14 4PU

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Secondment

Employer:

NHS England

Apply now on NHS Jobs for TPD for Psychiatry of Gen Adult & Old Age South East London job (opens in a new window) [32]

Consultant Psychiatrist Working Age Adult CMHT

Leeds, LS7 3JX

Salary:

£114894.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Leeds and York Partnership NHS Foundation Trust

<u>Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Psychiatrist Working Age Adult CMHT job</u>

<u>(opens in a new window)</u>
[33]

Specialty Doctor in Healthy Ageing Service

Milton Keynes, MK14 6BL

Salary:

£59175.00 to £95400.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust

Apply now on NHS Jobs for Specialty Doctor in Healthy Ageing Service job (opens in a new window) [34]

Consultant Psychiatrist - Forensic Psychiatry

Bristol, BS16 1EG

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Avon & Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust

Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Psychiatrist - Forensic Psychiatry job

(opens in a new window) [35]

Consultant Psychiatrist- Learning Disabilities Psychiatry

Wordsley, DY1 5ST

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Black Country Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Psychiatrist- Learning Disabilities

Psychiatry job (opens in a new window) [36]

Consultant Psychiatrist in Forensic Psychiatry

Dawlish, EX7 0NR

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Devon Partnership NHS Trust

Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Psychiatrist in Forensic Psychiatry job (opens in a new window) [37]

Locum Consultant Psychiatrist - Forensic Psychiatry

Bristol, BS16 1EG

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Avon & Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust

Apply now on NHS Jobs for Locum Consultant Psychiatrist - Forensic Psychiatry
job (opens in a new window) [38]

Consultant Psychiatrist in OPMH Psychiatry

Weymouth, DT4 7TB

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Dorset HealthCare University NHS Foundation Trust

<u>Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Psychiatrist in OPMH Psychiatry job (opens in a new window)</u> [39]

Consultant Psychiatrist in Liaison Psychiatry

Plymouth, PL6 8DH

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Livewell Southwest

Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Psychiatrist in Liaison Psychiatry job (opens in a new window) [40]

Consultant Psychiatrist in Liaison Psychiatry

Shrewsbury, SY3 8XQ

Salary:

£99532.00 to £131964.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Midlands Partnership NHS Foundation Trust

<u>Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Psychiatrist in Liaison Psychiatry job</u>

<u>(opens in a new window)</u>

[41]

Consultant Psychiatrist in General Adult Psychiatry

Woolwich, London, SE18 6PZ

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust

Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Psychiatrist in General Adult Psychiatry job (opens in a new window) [42]

Consultant Psychiatrist in Older Adult Psychiatry

Scunthorpe, DN16 2JX

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Rotherham Doncaster and South Humber NHSFT

Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Psychiatrist in Older Adult Psychiatry job

(opens in a new window) [43]

Consultant Psychiatrist General Adult Psychiatry (Community)

Carlisle, CA1 1PY

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne and wear (CNTW) NHS Foundation Trust Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Psychiatrist General Adult Psychiatry (Community) job (opens in a new window) [44]

Consultant Psychiatrist, General Adult Psychiatry - Accrington

Accrington, BB5 6SE

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Lancashire & South Cumbria NHS Foundation Trust

Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Psychiatrist, General Adult Psychiatry
Accrington job (opens in a new window) [45]

Consultant Psychiatrist in General Adult Psychiatry

Plumstead, London, SE181BH

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust

Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Psychiatrist in General Adult Psychiatry job (opens in a new window) [46]

Consultant Psychiatrist in General Adult Psychiatry

Colwyn Bay, LL29 7RB

Salary:

£91722.00 to £119079.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board

Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Psychiatrist in General Adult Psychiatry job (opens in a new window) [47]

Consultant Psychiatrist in General Adult Psychiatry

Charlton, London, SE7 8JH

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust

Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Psychiatrist in General Adult Psychiatry job (opens in a new window) [48]

Consultant Psychiatrist in General Adult Psychiatry

Charlton, London, SE7 8JH

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust

Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Psychiatrist in General Adult Psychiatry job (opens in a new window) [49]

Consultant Psychiatrist in General Adult Psychiatry

Lincoln, LN1 1FS

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Lincolnshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust

Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Psychiatrist in General Adult Psychiatry job (opens in a new window) [50]

Consultant Psychiatrist – EIS Psychiatry, South Cumbria (6PA)

Kendal, LA9 7RL

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Lancashire & South Cumbria NHS Foundation Trust

<u>Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Psychiatrist – EIS Psychiatry, South</u>

<u>Cumbria (6PA) job (opens in a new window)</u> [51]

o Consultant Psychiatrist, General Adult Psychiatry, Phoenix ward

Oxford, OX44XN

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Oxford Health NHS Trust

Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Psychiatrist, General Adult Psychiatry, Phoenix ward job (opens in a new window) [52]

Specialist Grade Psychiatrist, General Adult Psychiatry, Blackburn

Blackburn, BB1 3BL

Salary:

£96990.00 to £107155.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Lancashire & South Cumbria NHS Foundation Trust

Apply now on NHS Jobs for Specialist Grade Psychiatrist, General Adult

Psychiatry, Blackburn job (opens in a new window) [53]

Consultant Psychiatrist in Inpatient Older Adult Psychiatry.

Poole, BH12 4NB

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Dorset HealthCare University NHS Foundation Trust

Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Psychiatrist in Inpatient Older Adult

Psychiatry. job (opens in a new window) [54]

Consultant Psychiatrist in General Adult Psychiatry ICMP

Woolwich, London, SE18 6PZ

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust

Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Psychiatrist in General Adult Psychiatry ICMP job (opens in a new window) [55]

Specialty Doctor Psychiatrist in General Adult Psychiatry

Paignton, TQ3 2DW

Salary:

£59175.00 to £95400.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Devon Partnership NHS Trust

Apply now on NHS Jobs for Specialty Doctor Psychiatrist in General Adult Psychiatry job (opens in a new window) [56]

Consultant Psychiatrist in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry

Oxford, OX3 7JH

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Oxford Health NHS Trust

Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Psychiatrist in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry job (opens in a new window) [57]

Consultant Psychiatrist Adult Psychiatry – Ward and Locality Team

Enfield, EN2 8JL

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

306 North London NHS Foundation Trust

Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Psychiatrist Adult Psychiatry – Ward and Locality Team job (opens in a new window) [58]

Consultant Psychiatrist Adult Psychiatry – Ward and Locality Team

Enfield, EN2 8JL

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

306 North London NHS Foundation Trust

Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Psychiatrist Adult Psychiatry – Ward and Locality Team job (opens in a new window) [59]

Consultant Psychiatrist in Inpatient General Adult Psychiatry -AAU

Peterborough, PE3 9GZ

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough NHS Foundation Trust

Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Psychiatrist in Inpatient General Adult

Psychiatry - AAU job (opens in a new window) [60]

Consultant Psychiatrist in General Adult Psychiatry (East Conwy)

Colwyn Bay, LL29 7RB

Salary:

£91722.00 to £119079.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board

Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Psychiatrist in General Adult Psychiatry (East Conwy) job (opens in a new window) [61]

Consultant Psychiatrist in General Adult Psychiatry (K&W CMHT)

Kingsbury, NW9 0PS

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust

Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Psychiatrist in General Adult Psychiatry

(K&W CMHT) job (opens in a new window) [62]

Consultant Psychiatrist General Adult Psychiatry – Enfield South L T

London, N9 0PD

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

306 North London NHS Foundation Trust

Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Psychiatrist General Adult Psychiatry – Enfield South L T job (opens in a new window) [63]

Liaison Psychiatry Practitioner

Lenton, NG7 2UH

Salary:

£37338.00 to £44962.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

Apply now on NHS Jobs for Liaison Psychiatry Practitioner job (opens in a new window) [64]

Consultant in Liaison Psychiatry

Luton, LU4 0DZ

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

East London NHS Foundation Trust

Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant in Liaison Psychiatry job (opens in a new window) [65]

Consultant in Liaison Psychiatry

Salisbury, SP2 8BJ

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Avon & Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant in Liaison Psychiatry job (opens in a new

window) [66]

o Consultant in Perinatal Psychiatry

Bedford, MK402NU

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

East London NHS Foundation Trust

Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant in Perinatal Psychiatry job (opens in a new window) [67]

Consultant in Forensic Psychiatry

Conwy, LL30 1LA

Salary:

£91722.00 to £119079.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board

Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant in Forensic Psychiatry job (opens in a new window) [68]

Further information

The <u>Royal College of Psychiatrists</u> [69] has further information about being an old age psychiatrist, particularly as your career progresses. Take a look.

And watch a video of Sarah, <u>a trainee in old age psychiatry</u> [70], talking about her experiences.

Other roles that may interest you

- General practitioner [71]
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