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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.

Can't see the video? You'll need to accept all <u>cookies</u> [2]. Alternatively, visit our YouTube Channel to view our videos [3]

#### 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

#### Show results within

#### Search

#### Consultant Psychiatrist in Old Age Psychiatry

Colwyn Bay, LL29 8AT

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

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) [12]

# 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) [13]

# Consultant in Old Age Psychiatry - Ceredigion

Aberystwyth, SY23 1ER

Salary:

£110240.00 to £160951.00

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) [14]

#### 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) [15]

#### 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) [16]

# Consultant Psychiatrist Old Age

Cinderford, GL14 2QA

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Gloucestershire Health and Care NHS Foundation Trust

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

# Consultant Mental Health Old Age Psychiatrist

Doncaster, DN4 8QN

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Rotherham Doncaster and South Humber NHSFT

Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Mental Health Old Age Psychiatrist job

(opens in a new window) [18]

#### 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) [19]

#### Consultant Old Age Psychiatrist in Universal Crisis Team

Sunderland, SR2 0NB

Salary:

£109725.00 to £145478.00

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) [20]

# Consultant Psychiatrist, Trafford, Old Age Inpatient

Davyhulme, M41 5SL

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Greater Manchester Mental Health NHSFT

Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Psychiatrist, Trafford, Old Age Inpatient job (opens in a new window) [21]

# 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) [22]

# 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) [23]

# 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) [24]

# Consultant Psychiatrist in Old Age \*with a £20K Support Package\*

Norwich, NR2 3TD

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Norfolk & Suffolk Foundation NHS Trust

Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Psychiatrist in Old Age \*with a £20K

Support Package\* job (opens in a new window) [25]

### Consultant Psych Old Age (IDT Haymills) \*with a £20K Support Package\*

Stowmarket, IP14 1RQ

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Norfolk & Suffolk Foundation NHS Trust

Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Psych Old Age (IDT Haymills) \*with a £20K Support Package\* job (opens in a new window) [26]

#### All Age Sexual Offence Examiner-Cumbria

Penrith, CA11 8JA

Salary:

£79497.00 to £82638.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Mountain Healthcare Ltd

Apply now on NHS Jobs for All Age Sexual Offence Examiner-Cumbria job (opens in a new window) [27]

# All Age Continuing Care (AACC) Administrator

Sleaford, NG34 8GG

Salary:

£24625.00 to £25674.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

NHS Lincolnshire Integrated Care Board

Apply now on NHS Jobs for All Age Continuing Care (AACC) Administrator job (opens in a new window) [28]

### All Age Continuing Healthcare Clinical commissioning case manager

Birmingham, B1 1TT

Salary:

£46148.00 to £52809.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

NHS Birmingham and Solihull Integrated Care Board

Apply now on NHS Jobs for All Age Continuing Healthcare Clinical commissioning case manager job (opens in a new window) [29]

#### All Age Sexual Offence Examiner (Out of hours)-Cambs

Huntingdon, PE29 6NT

Salary:

£79498.00 to £82638.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Mountain Healthcare Ltd

Apply now on NHS Jobs for All Age Sexual Offence Examiner (Out of hours)-Cambs job (opens in a new window) [30]

#### Consultant Psychiatrist in Liaison Psychiatry

Shrewsbury, SY3 8XQ

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Midlands Partnership NHS Foundation Trust

Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Psychiatrist in Liaison Psychiatry job (opens in a new window) [31]

# Consultant Psychiatrist in OPMH Psychiatry

Weymouth, DT4 7TB

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Dorset HealthCare University NHS Foundation Trust

Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Psychiatrist in OPMH Psychiatry job (opens in a new window) [32]

# o Consultant Psychiatrist, General Adult Psychiatry - Blackburn

Blackburn, BB1 3BL

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 
Blackburn job (opens in a new window) [33]

#### Consultant Psychiatrist, General Adult Psychiatry - Lancaster

Morecambe, LA4 5QG

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 
Lancaster job (opens in a new window) [34]

#### 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) [35]

# Staff Grade Psychiatrist - Inpatient Adult Psychiatry

Jersey, JE2 7UW St Helier, JE1 3QS

Salary:

£58742.00 to £97050.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Health and Community Services

Apply now on NHS Jobs for Staff Grade Psychiatrist - Inpatient Adult Psychiatry job (opens in a new window) [36]

#### 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) [37]

#### Consultant Psychiatrist, General Inpatient Psychiatry - Whalley

Whalley, BB7 9PE

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Lancashire & South Cumbria NHS Foundation Trust

Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Psychiatrist, General Inpatient Psychiatry -

Whalley job (opens in a new window) [38]

# 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) [39]

# 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

Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Psychiatrist – EIS Psychiatry, South Cumbria (6PA) job (opens in a new window) [40]

#### 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) [41]

#### Staff Grade Psychiatrist - Community General Adult Psychiatry

Jersey, JE2 4UE St Helier, JE2 4RP

Salary:

£58742.00 to £97050.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Health and Community Services

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

# Consultant Psychiatrist – General Adult Psychiatry, West Lancs CMHT

Ormskirk, L39 2JW

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,

West Lancs CMHT job (opens in a new window) [43]

#### Consultant Psychiatrist Adult Psychiatry – Ward and Locality Team

Enfield, EN2 8JL

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

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) [44]

#### 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) [45]

#### Consultant Psychiatrist Adult Psychiatry – Ward and Locality Team

Enfield, EN2 8JL

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

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) [46]

# CAMHS LD Consultant Psychiatry

Reading, RG6 6BZ

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Berkshire Healthcare Foundation Trust

Apply now on NHS Jobs for CAMHS LD Consultant Psychiatry job (opens in a new window) [47]

# Operational Manager Liaison Psychiatry

Gillingham, ME7 5NY

Salary:

£46148.00 to £52809.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Kent & Medway NHS & Social Care Partnership Trust

Apply now on NHS Jobs for Operational Manager Liaison Psychiatry job (opens in a new window) [48]

#### Consultant Medical Psychiatry Bank

Wakefield, WF1 3SP Barnsley, S703RD Dewsbury, WF13 4HS Halifax, HX30PW Doncaster, DN58AR

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Bank

Employer:

South West Yorkshire Partnership NHS Trust

<u>Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Medical Psychiatry Bank job (opens in a new window)</u>

[49]

### Consultant Medical Psychiatry Bank

Wakefield, WF1 3SP Barnsley, S703RD Dewsbury, WF13 4HS Halifax, HX30PW Doncaster, DN58AR

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Bank

Employer:

South West Yorkshire Partnership NHS Trust

Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Medical Psychiatry Bank job (opens in a new window) [49]

# 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) [50]

#### Team Manager - Liaison Psychiatry

Torquay, TQ2 7AA

Salary:

£46148.00 to £52809.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Devon Partnership NHS Trust

Apply now on NHS Jobs for Team Manager - Liaison Psychiatry job (opens in a new window) [51]

#### 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) [52]

# Consultant in Psychiatry Liaison Team

Wakefield, WF1 3SP

Salary:

£114894.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

South West Yorkshire Partnership NHS Trust

Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant in Psychiatry Liaison Team job (opens in a new window) [53]

# Consultant in Psychiatry (CMHT North)

SHEFFIELD, S5 8BE

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Sheffield Health and Social Care NHS Foundation Trust

Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant in Psychiatry (CMHT North) job (opens in a new window) [54]

#### Consultant in Forensic Psychiatry - Ravenswood

Fareham, PO17 5NA

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 Forensic Psychiatry - Ravenswood job

(opens in a new window) [55]

#### Specialty Doctor in Forensic Psychiatry

Milton Keynes, MK65LD

Salary:

£55825.00 to £90000.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Oxford Health NHS Trust

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

# Liaison Psychiatry Senior Clinical Practitioner

Medway, ME7 5NY

Salary:

£46148.00 to £52809.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Kent & Medway NHS & Social Care Partnership Trust

Apply now on NHS Jobs for Liaison Psychiatry Senior Clinical Practitioner job

(opens in a new window) [57]

#### Consultant in Psychiatry - Home Treatment

SHEFFIELD, S5 7JT

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Sheffield Health and Social Care NHS Foundation Trust

Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant in Psychiatry - Home Treatment job (opens in a new window) [58]

#### LAS CT General Adult Psychiatry

Reading, RG30 4EJ

Salary:

£49909.00 to £61825.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Berkshire Healthcare Foundation Trust

Apply now on NHS Jobs for LAS CT General Adult Psychiatry job (opens in a new window) [59]

# Liaison Psychiatry Senior Clinical Practitioner

Dartford, DA2 8DA

Salary:

£48270.00 to £54931.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Kent & Medway NHS & Social Care Partnership Trust

Apply now on NHS Jobs for Liaison Psychiatry Senior Clinical Practitioner job

(opens in a new window) [60]

# Specialty Doctor in Forensic Psychiatry

Middlesbrough, TS4 3AF

Salary:

£59175.00 to £95400.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Tees Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust

Apply now on NHS Jobs for Specialty Doctor in Forensic Psychiatry job (opens in a new window) [61]

### Consultant in Early Intervention Psychiatry

Bradford, BD7 1LG

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

**Bradford District Care NHS Foundation Trust** 

Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant in Early Intervention Psychiatry job (opens in a new window) [62]

#### Specialist Grade General Adult Psychiatry

Abertystwyth, SY23 1HB

Salary:

£100870.00 to £111442.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Hywel Dda University Health Board

Apply now on NHS Jobs for Specialist Grade General Adult Psychiatry job (opens in a new window) [63]

# Consultant in Psychiatry - CMHT South

sheffield, S22BS

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Sheffield Health and Social Care NHS Foundation Trust

Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant in Psychiatry - CMHT South job (opens in a new window) [64]

# Consultant in General Adult Psychiatry

Telford, TF34NF

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Midlands Partnership NHS Foundation Trust

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

#### Liaison Psychiatry Senior Clinical Practitioner

Pembury, TN2 4QJ

Salary:

£46148.00 to £52809.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Kent & Medway NHS & Social Care Partnership Trust

Apply now on NHS Jobs for Liaison Psychiatry Senior Clinical Practitioner job

(opens in a new window) [66]

#### Consultant Psychiatrist

Pentre, CF417BT

Salary:

£110240.00 to £160951.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board

Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Psychiatrist job (opens in a new window)

[67]

# Consultant Psychiatrist

Bury St Edmunds, IP30 9LR

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Elysium Healthcare

Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Psychiatrist job (opens in a new window)

[68]

# Further information

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

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

# Other roles that may interest you

- General practitioner [71]
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