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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 <sup>[5]</sup> (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 <u>'Pay for doctors'</u> [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

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#### 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

Workington, CA14 4HA

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 in Old Age Psychiatry job (opens in a new window) [12]

#### • 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) [13]

#### Consultant Psychiatrist in Old Age Psychiatry

Pwllhelli, LL53 6TU

Salary: £106000.00 to £154760.00 Type: Permanent Employer: Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board <u>Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Psychiatrist in Old Age Psychiatry job</u> (opens in a new window) [14]

#### 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) [15]

#### • Consultant in Old Age Psychiatry

Penarth, CF64 2XX Salary: £106000.00 to £154760.00

Type: Permanent

Employer:

Cardiff and Vale University Health Board Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant in Old Age Psychiatry job (opens in a new

window) [16]

#### Consultant Psychiatrist – Old Age Psychiatry -East Cheshire Community

Crewe, CW1 2ER Salary: £105504.00 to £139882.00 Type: Permanent Employer: Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Foundation Trust Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Psychiatrist – Old Age Psychiatry -East Cheshire Community job (opens in a new window) [17]

#### • Consultant in Old Age Psychiatry, Buckinghamshire

High Wycombe, HP11 1NH

Salary: £105504.00 to £139882.00 Type: Permanent Employer: Oxford Health NHS Trust <u>Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant in Old Age Psychiatry, Buckinghamshire</u> 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]

#### 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) [20]

#### Consultant Psychiatrist - Old Age (Inpatients)

Southport, PR8 6PL Salary: £105504.00 to £139882.00 Type: Permanent Employer: Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust <u>Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Psychiatrist - Old Age (Inpatients) job</u> (opens in a new window) [21]

#### • 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) [22]

#### 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 <u>Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant in Old Age Psychiatry, North Bucks OA</u> CMHT job (opens in a new window) [23]

#### 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) [24]

#### • 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) [25]

#### 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) [26]

#### 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) [27]

#### • 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) [28]

#### • 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) [29]

#### Consultant Psychiatrist Acute Working Age Adult Inpatients

Leeds, LS9 7BE

Salary:

£114894.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Leeds and York Partnership NHS Foundation Trust Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Psychiatrist Acute Working Age Adult Inpatients job (opens in a new window) [30]

#### • All Age Safeguarding Administrator

Dover, CT17 0HD

Salary: £24625.00 to £25674.00 Type: Permanent Employer: East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust Apply now on NHS Jobs for All Age Safeguarding Administrator job (opens in a new window) [31]

#### Clinical Pharmacist at Old Court House Surgery Sutton

Sutton, SM1 4AF Salary: Negotiable Type: Permanent Employer: Sutton Primary Care Networks <u>Apply now on NHS Jobs for Clinical Pharmacist at Old Court House Surgery Sutton</u> job (opens in a new window) [32]

#### • 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) [33]

#### Consultant Psychiatrist in Liaison Psychiatry

Cramlington, NE23 6NZ

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 in Liaison Psychiatry job (opens in a new window) [34]

#### 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) [35]

#### • 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) [36]

#### Consultant Psychiatrist in Liaison Psychiatry

Shrewsbury, SY3 8XQ Salary: £99532.00 to £131964.00 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) [37]

#### 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) [38]

#### Consultant Psychiatrist - General Adult (Addiction Psychiatry)

London, N7 7QP

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

455 North London NHS Foundation Trust Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Psychiatrist - General Adult (Addiction Psychiatry) job (opens in a new window) [39]

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

Accrington, BB5 6SE Salary: £105504.00 to £139882.00 Type: Permanent Employer: Lancashire & South Cumbria NHS Foundation Trust <u>Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Psychiatrist, General Adult Psychiatry -</u> <u>Accrington job (opens in a new window)</u> [40]

#### • 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) [41]

#### 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) [42]

#### 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) [43]

#### Consultant Psychiatrist in General Adult Psychiatry

Charlton, London, SE7 8JH

Salary: £105504.00 to £139882.00 Type: Permanent Employer: Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust <u>Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Psychiatrist in General Adult Psychiatry job</u> (opens in a new window) [44]

#### • Consultant Psychiatrist in General Adult Psychiatry

Colwyn Bay, LL29 7RB

Salary:

£91722.00 to £119079.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board <u>Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Psychiatrist in General Adult Psychiatry job</u> (opens in a new window) [45]

#### • Consultant Psychiatrist in Learning Disability Psychiatry

Carlisle, CA1 3SX

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne and wear (CNTW) NHS Foundation Trust Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Psychiatrist in Learning Disability Psychiatry job (opens in a new window) [46]

#### • Consultant Psychiatrist - Older Adult Psychiatry, Preston

Bamber Bridge, PR5 6YA

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Туре:

Permanent

Employer:

Lancashire & South Cumbria NHS Foundation Trust

<u>Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Psychiatrist - Older Adult Psychiatry,</u> <u>Preston job (opens in a new window)</u> [47]

#### • 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) [48]

#### 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) [49]

#### • Specialty Doctor Psychiatrist in General Adult Psychiatry

Barnstaple, EX311QL

Salary: £59175.00 to £95400.00 Type: Fixed-Term Employer: Devon Partnership NHS Trust <u>Apply now on NHS Jobs for Specialty Doctor Psychiatrist in General Adult</u> Psychiatry job (opens in a new window) [50]

#### Consultant Psychiatrist, General Adult Psychiatry, Phoenix ward

Oxford, OX44XN

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00 Type: Permanent Employer: Oxford Health NHS Trust <u>Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Psychiatrist, General Adult Psychiatry,</u> Phoenix ward job (opens in a new window) [51]

#### Locum Consultant Psychiatrist in Substance Misuse Psychiatry

Caernarfon, LL55 2PH

Salary: £116600.00 Type: Fixed-Term Employer: Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board Apply now on NHS Jobs for Locum Consultant Psychiatrist in Substance Misuse Psychiatry job (opens in a new window) [52]

#### Consultant Psychiatrist in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry

Lincoln, LN4 7RZ

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Lincolnshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Psychiatrist in Child and Adolescent

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

#### Consultant Psychiatrist in General Adult Psychiatry ICMP

Woolwich, London, SE18 6PZ

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Öxleas NHS Foundation Trust Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Psychiatrist in General Adult Psychiatry ICMP job (opens in a new window) [54]

#### 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) [55]

#### • Consultant Psychiatrist in Psychiatry of Learning Disability

Leeds, LS12 3QE

Salary:

£114894.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Leeds and York Partnership NHS Foundation Trust Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Psychiatrist in Psychiatry of Learning Disability job (opens in a new window) [56]

#### • 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> Cumbria (6PA) 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:

455 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 in General Adult Psychiatry (East Conwy)

Colwyn Bay, LL29 7RB

Salary: £91722.00 to £119079.00 Type: Permanent Employer: Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board <u>Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Psychiatrist in General Adult Psychiatry</u> (East Conwy) job (opens in a new window) [59]

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

Enfield, EN2 8JL Salary: £105504.00 to £139882.00 Type: Fixed-Term Employer: 455 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) [60]

#### 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) [61]

#### Consultant Psychiatrist in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry North Devon

Barnstaple, EX31 3UD Salary: £105504.00 to £139882.00 Type: Permanent Employer: Devon Partnership NHS Trust Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Psychiatrist in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry North Devon job (opens in a new window) [62]

#### • Liaison Psychiatry Practitioner

Bournemouth and Poole UHD, BH15 2JB

Salary: £37338.00 to £44962.00 Type: Permanent Employer: Dorset HealthCare University NHS Foundation Trust Apply now on NHS Jobs for Liaison Psychiatry Practitioner job (opens in a new window) [63]

#### Liaison Psychiatry Practitioner

Ealing/Hounslow, TW7 6AF

Salary: £37338.00 to £44962.00 Type: Permanent Employer: West London NHS 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]

#### • Associate Specialist / Consultant - Psychiatry

Poole, BH17 0RB

Salary:

£58859.00 to £139882.00 Type: Permanent Employer: Dorset HealthCare University NHS Foundation Trust <u>Apply now on NHS Jobs for Associate Specialist / Consultant - Psychiatry job</u> (opens in a new window) [67]

#### 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) [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]
- Electrician [72]
- Geriatric medicine [73]
- Intensive care medicine [74]

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