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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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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

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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

Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Psychiatrist in Old Age Psychiatry job (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 Old Age Psychiatrist

Greater London, BR3 3BX

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust

Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Old Age Psychiatrist 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]

Community Consultant Old Age Psychiatrist

Southport, PR8 6PL

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust

Apply now on NHS Jobs for Community Consultant Old Age Psychiatrist job (opens in a new window) [18]

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) [19]

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) [20]

Consultant Old Age Liaison Psychiatrist

Ilford, IG3 8YB

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

NELFT North East London Foundation Trust

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

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) [22]

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) [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 Psychiatrist - Dover Old Age Community

Dover Kent, CT16 2AH

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Kent & Medway NHS & Social Care Partnership Trust

Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Psychiatrist - Dover Old Age Community
job (opens in a new window) [26]

Consultant Psychiatrist - Ashford Old Age Community

Ashford, TN24 5BY

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Kent & Medway NHS & Social Care Partnership Trust

<u>Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Psychiatrist - Ashford Old Age Community</u>
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 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) [31]

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) [32]

Clinical Lead OT Health & Ageing Unit (Elderly Rehab)

London, SE5 9RS

Salary:

£61927.00 to £68676.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

Apply now on NHS Jobs for Clinical Lead OT Health & Ageing Unit (Elderly Rehab) job (opens in a new window) [33]

Clinical Pharmacist at Old Court House Surgery Sutton

Sutton, SM1 4AF

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Sutton Primary Care Networks

Apply now on NHS Jobs for Clinical Pharmacist at Old Court House Surgery Sutton 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 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) [36]

Consultant Psychiatrist in Forensic Psychiatry

Wickford, SS11 7XX

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Essex Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust

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

<u>(opens in a new window)</u>
[37]

Consultant Psychiatrist in Forensic Psychiatry

Warrington, WA9 5BD

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust

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

Consultant Psychiatrist in Forensic Psychiatry

Wickford, SS11 7XX

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Essex Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust

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

<u>(opens in a new window)</u>
[39]

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) [40]

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) [41]

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) [42]

Consultant Psychiatrist in Substance Misuse Psychiatry

Caernarfon, LL55 2PH

Salary:

£106000.00 to £154760.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board

Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Psychiatrist in Substance Misuse Psychiatry job (opens in a new window) [43]

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) [44]

Consultant Psychiatrist in Adult Psychiatry (CRHT)

St Helens, WA9 3DE

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust

Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Psychiatrist in Adult Psychiatry (CRHT) 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

Exeter, EX2 5AF

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Devon Partnership NHS Trust

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

Consultant Psychiatrist for Older Adult Psychiatry

Tavistock, PL19 8AB Ivybridge, PL21 0AJ

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Devon Partnership NHS Trust

Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Psychiatrist for Older 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, 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) [50]

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) [51]

Consultant Psychiatrist - Older Adult Psychiatry, Preston

Bamber Bridge, PR5 6YA

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Lancashire & South Cumbria NHS Foundation Trust

Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Psychiatrist - Older Adult Psychiatry,

Preston job (opens in a new window) [52]

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) [53]

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) [54]

Specialty Doctor Psychiatrist in General Adult Psychiatry

Barnstaple, EX311QL

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) [55]

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) [56]

Consultant Psychiatrist in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry

Lincoln, LN4 7RZ

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Lincolnshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust

<u>Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Psychiatrist in Child and Adolescent</u>

<u>Psychiatry job (opens in a new window) [57]</u>

Consultant Psychiatrist in CAMHS Learning Disabilities Psychiatry

Worcester, WR5 1JR

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Herefordshire and Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust

Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Psychiatrist in CAMHS Learning Disabilities

Psychiatry job (opens in a new window) [58]

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) [59]

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) [60]

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) [61]

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) [62]

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) [63]

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) [64]

Consultant Psychiatrist in Liaison Psychiatry (WAA and OA)

Harrogate, HG27SX

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Tees Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust

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

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) [66]

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) [67]

Further information

The Royal College of Psychiatrists [68] 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 [69], talking about her experiences.

Other roles that may interest you

- General practitioner [70]
- Electrician [71]
- Geriatric medicine [72]
- Intensive care medicine [73]

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