

# Acute internal medicine

Doctors working in acute internal medicine assess, investigate, diagnose and manage patients with conditions that exhibit severe symptoms that develop quickly and may be life-threatening.

You'll care for patients as they first arrive at hospital, making an initial diagnosis and providing treatment for up to 72 hours.

Can't see the video? You'll need to accept all [cookies](#) <sup>[1]</sup>. Alternatively, visit our YouTube Channel to view our [videos](#) <sup>[2]</sup>

[Download transcript](#) <sup>[3]</sup>

Watch the above video where Dr Hannah Skene MBChB, FRCP(Edin), MMedSci, SFHEA talks about her career as a consultant in AIM.

## Life in acute internal medicine

You'll work as part of the [acute medical unit](#) <sup>[4]</sup>, which is often very busy. You'll treat patients of all ages with a wide range of clinical problems and interact with numerous colleagues including consultants, emergency department staff, critical care and other medical specialists.

You'll regularly perform:

- lumbar puncture
- [paracentesis](#) <sup>[5]</sup> – puncture of the wall of a body cavity (for example chest or abdomen) to drain off excess fluid or to obtain diagnostic material
- [pleural aspiration](#) <sup>[6]</sup> – insertion of a small needle into the space between the lungs and the chest wall to remove fluid that has accumulated around the lung

Your exposure to a broad range of clinical problems will give you experience in all aspects of acute medical specialties and practical procedure skills.

You'll gain experience in:

- managing acute presentation of medical illness promptly
- managing medical patients in an in-patient setting
- developing new patient pathways to maximise safe, effective care in the community where feasible
- providing leadership skills within an acute medical unit

- developing multi-professional systems to promote optimal patient care
- the care of patients requiring more intensive levels of care than would be generally managed in a medical ward, usually gained from experience within a critical care unit

## How much can I earn?

You'll first earn a salary when you start your [foundation training](#) <sup>[7]</sup> after medical school. Find out details of current salary ranges for foundation and specialty training, [SAS doctors](#) <sup>[8]</sup> and consultants on the '[Pay for doctors](#)' <sup>[9]</sup> 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

## 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.

# What are my chances of starting a career in acute internal medicine?

There are approximately 504 doctors working in acute internal medicine in NHS, England. In 2020, there were 510 applications for 94 specialty training posts.

## How to become a doctor in acute internal medicine

After medical school, you'll join the paid two-year foundation programme <sup>[10]</sup> where you'll work in six placements in different settings.

After your foundation programme, you can apply for paid specialty training <sup>[11]</sup> to become a doctor in acute internal medicine, 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.

## Where a career as a doctor working in intensive care <sup>[12]</sup> medicine can take you

You'll be required to develop specialist skills as part of your acute internal medicine training. You can choose to specialise in a practical procedure such as echocardiography or gain qualifications in management, leadership or education.

You'll also have opportunities to be involved in medical research.

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### ◦ Consultant in Acute & General Internal Medicine

Preston, PR2 9HT

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant in Acute & General Internal Medicine job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[13]</sup>

- **Assistant Specialty Manager Acute Medicine & General Internal Medicine**

Bristol, BS2 8HW

Salary:

£31049.00 to £37796.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust (UHBW)

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Assistant Specialty Manager Acute Medicine & General Internal Medicine job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[14]</sup>

- **Specialty Doctor in Acute Medicine**

Torquay, TQ2 7AA

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Specialty Doctor in Acute Medicine job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[15]</sup>

- **Consultant - Acute Medicine**

Truro, TR1 3LJ

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Royal Cornwall Hospitals Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant - Acute Medicine job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[16]</sup>

- **ACP Acute Medicine**

Poole, BH15 2JB

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

University Hospitals Dorset NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for ACP Acute Medicine job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[17]</sup>

- **Consultant - Acute Medicine**

Truro, TR1 3LJ

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Royal Cornwall Hospitals Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant - Acute Medicine job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[18]</sup>

- **Acute Medicine Consultant**

Swindon, SN3 6BB

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Great Western Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Acute Medicine Consultant job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[19]</sup>

- **Consultant Acute Medicine**

Romford, RM7 0AG

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Barking, Havering and Redbridge University Hospitals NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Acute Medicine job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[20]</sup>

- **Acute Medicine Clinical Fellow**

Birmingham, B15 2TH

Salary:

£61825.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Acute Medicine Clinical Fellow job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[21]</sup>

- **Consultant in Acute Medicine**

London, N18 1QX

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant in Acute Medicine job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[22]</sup>

- **Consultants Acute Medicine/Frailty**

Bury, BL9 7TD

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Northern Care Alliance NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultants Acute Medicine/Frailty job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[23]</sup>

- **Consultant in Acute Medicine**

Derby, DE22 3NE

Salary:

£109725.00 to £145478.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

University Hospitals of Derby and Burton NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant in Acute Medicine job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[24]</sup>

- **Senior OT - Acute Medicine**

Luton, LU4 0DZ

Salary:

£37338.00 to £44962.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Bedfordshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Senior OT - Acute Medicine job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[25]</sup>

- **Consultant In Acute Medicine**

WALSALL, WS2 9PS

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant In Acute Medicine job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[26]</sup>

- **Matron in Acute Medicine**

London, SE13 6QW

Salary:

£53755.00 to £60504.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Matron in Acute Medicine job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[27]</sup>

- **Consultant in Acute Medicine**

Colchester, CO4 5JL

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

East Suffolk and North Essex NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant in Acute Medicine job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[28]</sup>

- **Consultant in Acute Medicine**

Exeter, EX2 5DW

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant in Acute Medicine job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[29]</sup>

- **Lead Pharmacist - Acute Medicine**

Thornton Heath, CR7 7YE

Salary:

£59490.00 to £66239.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Croydon Health Services NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Lead Pharmacist - Acute Medicine job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[30]</sup>

- **Consultant in Acute Medicine**

Yeovil, BA21 4AT

Salary:

£109725.00 to £145478.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Somerset NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant in Acute Medicine job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[31]</sup>

- **Consultant in Acute Medicine**

Basingstoke, RG24 9NA

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00



Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant in Acute Medicine job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[32]</sup>

- **Specialty Doctor in Acute Ophthalmology**

Manchester, M13 9WL

Salary:

£59175.00 to £95400.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Specialty Doctor in Acute Ophthalmology job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[33]</sup>

- **Training Programme Director - General Internal Medicine (South London)**

London, E14 4PU

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Secondment

Employer:

NHS England

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Training Programme Director - General Internal Medicine \(South London\) job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[34]</sup>

- **Consultant Physician in Acute Medicine**

Crewe, CW1 4QJ

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Mid Cheshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Physician in Acute Medicine job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[35]</sup>

- **Consultant Physician in Acute Medicine**

Stockport, SK2 7JE

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Stockport NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Physician in Acute Medicine job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[36]</sup>

- **Consultant in Acute General Medicine**

Carmarthen, SA31 2AF

Salary:

£110240.00 to £160951.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Hywel Dda University Health Board

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant in Acute General Medicine job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[37]</sup>

- **Locum Consultant in Acute Medicine**

Salford, M6 8HD

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Northern Care Alliance NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Locum Consultant in Acute Medicine job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[38]</sup>

- **Lead Clinical Pharmacist - Acute Medicine**

Chelmsford, CM1 7ET

Salary:

£55690.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Mid and South Essex NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Lead Clinical Pharmacist - Acute Medicine job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[39]</sup>

- **Teaching Fellow in Acute Medicine**

Derby, DE22 3NE

Salary:

£61825.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

University Hospitals of Derby and Burton NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Teaching Fellow in Acute Medicine job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[40]</sup>

- **Consultant in Acute Medicine and General Medicine**

Woolwich, SE18 4QH

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant in Acute Medicine and General Medicine job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[41]</sup>

- **Consultant in Acute Medicine (supportive care)**

Exeter, EX2 5DW

Salary:

£109725.00 to £145478.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant in Acute Medicine \(supportive care\) job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[42]</sup>

- **Consultant in Endocrine and Acute Medicine**

Hampstead, NW3 2QG

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant in Endocrine and Acute Medicine job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[43]</sup>

- **Specialist Clinical Fellow - Acute Medicine ST3+**

Frimley, GU16 7UJ

Salary:

£61825.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Frimley Health NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Specialist Clinical Fellow - Acute Medicine ST3+ job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[44]</sup>

- **Lead Pharmacist - Acute Medicine and Frailty**

Chelmsford, CM1 7ET

Salary:

£55690.00 to £60504.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Mid and South Essex NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Lead Pharmacist - Acute Medicine and Frailty job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[45]</sup>

- **Consultant Physician in Acute Medicine (AAU)**

Newport, PO30 5TG

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Isle of Wight NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Physician in Acute Medicine \(AAU\) job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[46]</sup>

- **Consultant in Elderly Medicine - Acute and Frailty - Hayes**

London, UB8 3NN

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

The Hillingdon Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant in Elderly Medicine - Acute and Frailty - Hayes job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[47]</sup>

- **Strategy Intern**

Welwyn Garden City, AL7 1BW

Salary:

£24625.00 to £25674.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Hertfordshire Community NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Strategy Intern job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[48]</sup>

- **Clinical Lead Physiotherapist (Acute and Respiratory Medicine)**

Exeter, EX2 5DW

Salary:

£47810.00 to £54710.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Clinical Lead Physiotherapist \(Acute and Respiratory Medicine\) job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[49]</sup>

- **International Social Worker**

Oxfordshire, OX1 1ND

Salary:

£37035.00 to £39513.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Oxfordshire County Council

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for International Social Worker job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[50]</sup>

- **Clinical Scheduler (INTERNAL)**

Hereford, HR1 2ER

Salary:

£26530.00 to £29114.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Wye Valley NHS Trust

Apply now on NHS Jobs for Clinical Scheduler (INTERNAL) job (opens in a new window) <sup>[51]</sup>

- **MYDoc Clinical Fellow (ST3-5 equivalent) Acute Medicine**

Wakefield, WF1 4DG

Salary:

£61825.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

The Mid Yorkshire Teaching NHS Trust

Apply now on NHS Jobs for MYDoc Clinical Fellow (ST3-5 equivalent) Acute Medicine job (opens in a new window) <sup>[52]</sup>

- **Junior Clinical Fellow in Acute Medicine or Geriatrics**

London, EN5 3DJ

Salary:

£49909.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust

Apply now on NHS Jobs for Junior Clinical Fellow in Acute Medicine or Geriatrics job (opens in a new window) <sup>[53]</sup>

- **Advanced Practitioner - Acute Services in Medicine and Frailty**

Cambridge, CB2 0QQ

Salary:

£50952.00 to £57349.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Cambridge University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

Apply now on NHS Jobs for Advanced Practitioner - Acute Services in Medicine and Frailty job (opens in a new window) <sup>[54]</sup>

- **Trust Doctor ST1/ST2 Level Equivalent General & Acute Medical**

Chester, CH2 1UL

Salary:

£49909.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Countess of Chester Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Trust Doctor ST1/ST2 Level Equivalent General & Acute Medical job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[55]</sup>

- **Clinical Scheduler - Oncology (INTERNAL)**

Hereford, HR1 2ER

Salary:

£26530.00 to £29114.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Wye Valley NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Clinical Scheduler - Oncology \(INTERNAL\) job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[56]</sup>

- **International Training Fellow - Ophthalmology**

Greater Manchester, WN1 2NN

Salary:

£49909.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Wrightington Wigan & Leigh Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for International Training Fellow - Ophthalmology job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[57]</sup>

- **Medical Recruitment Officer (INTERNAL)**

Hereford, HR1 2AZ

Salary:

£24625.00 to £25674.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Wye Valley NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Medical Recruitment Officer \(INTERNAL\) job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[58]</sup>

- **Education & Training Facilitator (INTERNAL)**

Hereford, HR1 2ER

Salary:

£37338.00 to £44962.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Wye Valley NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Education & Training Facilitator \(INTERNAL\) job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[59]</sup>

- **Apprentice Occupational Therapist \*Internal\***

Whitehaven, CA28 8JG

Salary:

£24625.00 to £36483.00

Type:

Apprenticeship

Employer:

North Cumbria Integrated Care NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Apprentice Occupational Therapist \\*Internal\\* job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[60]</sup>

- **International Training Fellow - Dermatology**

Wigan, WN1 2NN

Salary:

£49909.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Wrightington Wigan & Leigh Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for International Training Fellow - Dermatology job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[61]</sup>

- **Consultant in Acute Medicine \*With up to £28k Bonus\***

Weston-Super-Mare, BS23 4TQ

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust (UHBW)

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant in Acute Medicine \\*With up to £28k Bonus\\* job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[62]</sup>



- **Consultant Acute Physician**

Margate, CT9 4AN

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Acute Physician job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[63]</sup>

- **Acute & ED CAO**

Chesterfield, S44 5BL

Salary:

£24625.00 to £25674.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Chesterfield Royal Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Acute & ED CAO job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[64]</sup>

- **Acute Respiratory Physiotherapist**

Bournemouth, BH7 7DW

Salary:

£37338.00 to £44962.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

University Hospitals Dorset NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Acute Respiratory Physiotherapist job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[65]</sup>

- **Assistant Medical Secretary – Respiratory (INTERNAL)**

Hereford, HR1 2ER

Salary:

£24625.00 to £25674.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Wye Valley NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Assistant Medical Secretary – Respiratory](#)

(INTERNAL) job (opens in a new window) <sup>[66]</sup>

- **Data Quality Administrator (Internal only)**

Victoria Road, Macclesfield, SK10 3BL

Salary:

£24625.00 to £25674.00

Type:

Secondment

Employer:

East Cheshire NHS Trust

Apply now on NHS Jobs for Data Quality Administrator (Internal only) job (opens in a new window) <sup>[67]</sup>

- **Specialist Maintenance Technician (Internal only)**

Victoria Road, Macclesfield, SK10 3BL

Salary:

£29970.00 to £36483.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

East Cheshire NHS Trust

Apply now on NHS Jobs for Specialist Maintenance Technician (Internal only) job (opens in a new window) <sup>[68]</sup>

- **Governance & Risk Co-ordinator (INTERNAL)**

Hereford, HR1 2BN

Salary:

£46148.00 to £52809.00

Type:

Secondment

Employer:

Wye Valley NHS Trust

Apply now on NHS Jobs for Governance & Risk Co-ordinator (INTERNAL) job (opens in a new window) <sup>[69]</sup>

- **Band 5 Acute Dietitian**

Birmingham, B15 2TH

Salary:

£29970.00 to £36483.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

## • Further information

These organisations have further information about being a doctor in acute internal medicine, particularly as your career progresses. Take a look.

[Royal College of Physicians](#) [71]

[Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh](#) [72]

[Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow](#) [73]

[Society for Acute Medicine](#) [74]

[British Association for Immediate Care \(BASICS\)](#) [75]

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