

# Infectious diseases

Doctors working in infectious diseases diagnose, investigate and treat infections caused by micro-organisms such as bacteria, viruses, protozoa and fungi.

You'll combine your clinical and laboratory skills to diagnose and provide effective treatment for a wide range of infectious diseases.

Screening for Ebola

## Life in infectious diseases

There are four distinct but interdependent infection specialties: infectious diseases, medical microbiology, medical virology and tropical medicine.

So, among other conditions, you could treat:

- bone infections
- HIV
- pneumonia
- viral hepatitis (inflammation of the liver)

The role is rapidly changing due to:

- an increase in resistance to antibiotics
- an increase in the severity of infections particularly in an ageing and more frail population
- the growing popularity of global travel heightening the need for expertise in the prevention and treatment of 'international' diseases

You'll regularly deliver:

- drug prescription
- insertion of a central venous catheter [1] – a thin flexible hollow tube is inserted into a large vein for the introduction of fluids including medication
- lumbar puncture [2] - a hollow needle is inserted into the lower part of the spinal canal to withdraw cerebrospinal fluid for diagnosis or to inject medication
- sigmoidoscopy (examination of part of the intestine using a very small camera)

## How much can I earn?

You'll first earn a salary when you start your [foundation training](#) <sup>[3]</sup> after medical school. Find out details of current salary ranges for foundation and specialty training, [SAS doctors](#) <sup>[4]</sup> and consultants on the [Pay for doctors](#) <sup>[5]</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 infectious diseases?

There are approximately 130 consultants working in infectious diseases in the NHS in England.

## How to become an infectious diseases doctor

After medical school, you'll join the paid two-year foundation programme <sup>[6]</sup> where you'll work in six placements in different settings.

After your foundation programme, you can apply for paid specialty training <sup>[7]</sup> to become a doctor in infectious diseases, which will take a minimum of seven or eight 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 in infectious diseases can take you

Infectious diseases is a wide and varied area and you'll have many opportunities to specialise.

You can also combine your training with either general internal medicine or with medical microbiology (or virology) and tropical medicine.

You'll also have opportunities to conduct research and teach.

### • Live vacancies

## Find a vacancy

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### ○ Consultant Infectious Diseases & General Medicine

Middlesbrough, TS4 3BW

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust  
[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Infectious Diseases & General Medicine job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[8]</sup>

- **Paediatric Infectious Diseases and Immunology Consultant**

London, SW17 0QT

Salary:

£109725.00 to £145478.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

St George's University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Paediatric Infectious Diseases and Immunology Consultant job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[9]</sup>

- **Consultant in Paediatric Infectious Diseases and Immunology**

Bristol, BS2 8BL

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 Paediatric Infectious Diseases and Immunology job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[10]</sup>

- **Consultant in Microbiology Infectious Diseases £20K welcome Bonus**

Ipswich, IP4 5PD

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 Microbiology Infectious Diseases £20K welcome Bonus job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[11]</sup>

- **Team Leader - Digestive Diseases (Endoscopy)**

Grimsby, DN33 2BA

Salary:

£27485.00 to £30162.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Northern Lincolnshire and Goole NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Team Leader - Digestive Diseases \(Endoscopy\) job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[12]</sup>

- **Clinical Fellow in fungal diseases**

London, W12 0HS

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Clinical Fellow in fungal diseases job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[13]</sup>

- **AHP Consultant: Physiotherapy (Neuromuscular Diseases)**

London, WC1N 3BG

Salary:

£85431.00 to £97148.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for AHP Consultant: Physiotherapy \(Neuromuscular Diseases\) job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[14]</sup>

- **Consultant in Interstitial Lung Disease**

Manchester, M23 9LT

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant in Interstitial Lung Disease job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[15]</sup>

- **Outpatient Clinic Coordinator - External Disease**

London, EC1V 2PD

Salary:

£30546.00 to £32207.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Outpatient Clinic Coordinator - External Disease job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[16]</sup>

- **Specialist Inflammatory Bowel Disease Dietitian**

Hull, HU3 2JZ

Salary:

£38682.00 to £46580.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Hull University Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Specialist Inflammatory Bowel Disease Dietitian job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[17]</sup>

- **Team Leader - Digestive Diseases (Gastroenterology)**

Grimsby, DN33 2BA

Salary:

£27485.00 to £30162.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Northern Lincolnshire and Goole NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Team Leader - Digestive Diseases \(Gastroenterology\) job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[18]</sup>

- **PCN Care Co-ordinator (Cardiovascular Disease)**

Tadley, RG26 4ER

Tadley, RG26 3AN

Newbury, RG20 5QX

Basingstoke, RG25 3DU

Basingstoke, RG23 7HZ

Salary:

£24600.00 to £25700.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Tadley Medical Partnership

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for PCN Care Co-ordinator \(Cardiovascular Disease\) job](#)

[\(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[19]</sup>

- **Senior Clinical Fellow in Occupational Lung Disease**

London, SW3 6HP

Salary:

£61825.00 to £70425.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Senior Clinical Fellow in Occupational Lung Disease job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[20]</sup>

- **Support Medical Secretary - Surgery and Digestive Diseases**

Bradford, BD9 6RJ

Salary:

£24937.00 to £26598.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Support Medical Secretary - Surgery and Digestive Diseases job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[21]</sup>

- **Locum Consultant in Adult Congenital Heart Disease**

Southampton, SO16 6YD

Salary:

£109725.00 to £145478.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

University Hospital Southampton NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Locum Consultant in Adult Congenital Heart Disease job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[22]</sup>

- **Motor Neuron Disease (MND) Care Centre Coordinator**

London, E1 1FR

Salary:

£56276.00 to £63176.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Barts Health NHS Trust  
[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Motor Neuron Disease \(MND\) Care Centre Coordinator job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[23]</sup>

- **Consultant in Diabetes, GIM related foot disease**

London, SE1 7EH

Salary:

£109725.00 to £145478.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant in Diabetes, GIM related foot disease job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[24]</sup>

- **Highly Specialist Speech and Language Therapist (Parkinson's Disease)**

Harrogate, HG2 7SX

Salary:

£47810.00 to £54710.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Highly Specialist Speech and Language Therapist \(Parkinson's Disease\) job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[25]</sup>

- **POST CCT Fellow In Coloproctology Inflammatory Bowel Disease Surgery**

Sheffield, S5 7AU

Salary:

£73992.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for POST CCT Fellow In Coloproctology Inflammatory Bowel Disease Surgery job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[26]</sup>

- **ST3+ Doctor - Acute Medicine**

Hereford, HR1 2ER

Salary:



£61825.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Wye Valley NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for ST3+ Doctor - Acute Medicine job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[27]</sup>

- **Specialty Doctor - Emergency Medicine**

Bournemouth, BH7 7DW

Salary:

£61542.00 to £99216.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

University Hospitals Dorset NHS Foundation Trust

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

- **Specialty Doctor - Palliative Medicine**

Dorchester, DT1 2SL

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Weldmar Hospicecare

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

- **Specialist Doctor in Elderly Medicine**

Wakefield, WF14DG

Salary:

£100870.00 to £111441.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

The Mid Yorkshire Teaching NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Specialist Doctor in Elderly Medicine job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[30]</sup>

- **Specialist Doctor in Stroke Medicine**

Wakefield, WF14DG

Salary:

£100870.00 to £111441.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

The Mid Yorkshire Teaching NHS Trust

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

- **Specialty Doctor in Emergency Medicine**

Slough, SL2 4HL

Salary:

£59175.00 to £95400.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Frimley Health NHS Foundation Trust

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

- **Specialty Doctor in Stroke Medicine**

Redhill, RH1 5RH

Salary:

£61542.00 to £99216.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Surrey and Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust

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

- **Specialty Doctor in Emergency Medicine**

King's Lynn, PE30 4ET

Salary:

£61542.00 to £99216.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

The Queen Elizabeth Hospital King's Lynn NHSFT

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Specialty Doctor in Emergency Medicine job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[34]</sup>

- **Junior Locally Employed Doctor in General Medicine/Geriatric Medicine**

Stockport, SK2 7JE

Salary:

£52656.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Stockport NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Junior Locally Employed Doctor in General Medicine/Geriatric Medicine job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[35]</sup>

- **Trust doctor in General Medicine (ST1)**

Ashford, TN24 0LZ

Salary:

£49909.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Trust doctor in General Medicine \(ST1\) job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[36]</sup>

- **Trust Doctor in Emergency Medicine (ST1)**

Ashford, TN24 0LZ

Salary:

£49909.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Trust Doctor in Emergency Medicine \(ST1\) job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[37]</sup>

- **Flexible Workforce (Bank) Doctor (Emergency Medicine)**

Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Foundation Trust, HD3 3EA

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Bank

Employer:

Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Foundation Trust  
[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Flexible Workforce \(Bank\) Doctor \(Emergency Medicine\) job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[38]</sup>

- **Trust Doctor In General Medicine (ST3)**

Ashford, TN24 0LZ

Salary:

£61825.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Trust Doctor In General Medicine \(ST3\) job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[39]</sup>

- **Specialty Doctor Emergency Medicine (Conquest Hospital)**

St Leonards-on-sea, TN37 7RD

Salary:

£59175.00 to £95400.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Specialty Doctor Emergency Medicine \(Conquest Hospital\) job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[40]</sup>

- **Trust Doctor in General Medicine (ST3)**

Ashford, TN24 0LZ

Salary:

£61825.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Trust Doctor in General Medicine \(ST3\) job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[41]</sup>

- **Trust Grade Doctor in Elderly Medicine**

London, W6 8RF

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Trust Grade Doctor in Elderly Medicine job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[42]</sup>

- **Specialty Doctor in Emergency Medicine - CESR Rotations**

Wakefield, WF14DG

Salary:

£61542.00 to £99216.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

The Mid Yorkshire Teaching NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Specialty Doctor in Emergency Medicine - CESR Rotations job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[43]</sup>

- **Foundation Year 2 Resident Doctor - Emergency Medicine**

Westcliff-on-Sea, SS0 0RY

Salary:

£41541.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Mid and South Essex NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Foundation Year 2 Resident Doctor - Emergency Medicine job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[44]</sup>

- **Locally Employed Doctor in Emergency Medicine ST4+**

Carlisle, CA2 7HY

Salary:

£61825.00 to £70425.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

North Cumbria Integrated Care NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Locally Employed Doctor in Emergency Medicine ST4+ job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[45]</sup>

- **Specialty Doctor/Clinical Fellow in Palliative Medicine**

Romford, RM4 1QH

Salary:

Negotiable  
Type:  
Fixed-Term  
Employer:  
Saint Francis Hospice  
[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Specialty Doctor/Clinical Fellow in Palliative Medicine job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[46]</sup>

- **Senior Locally Employed Doctor in Respiratory Medicine**

Manchester, M23 9LT

Salary:  
£61825.00  
Type:  
Fixed-Term  
Employer:  
Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust  
[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Senior Locally Employed Doctor in Respiratory Medicine job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[47]</sup>

- **Trust Doctor (ST3 equivalent) in General Medicine**

Worthing, BN11 2DH

Salary:  
£41750.00 to £64288.00  
Type:  
Fixed-Term  
Employer:  
University Hospitals Sussex NHS Foundation Trust (279)  
[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Trust Doctor \(ST3 equivalent\) in General Medicine job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[48]</sup>

- **Locally Employed Doctor (Higher) in Emergency Medicine QEHB**

Birmingham, B15 2TH

Salary:  
£61825.00  
Type:  
Fixed-Term  
Employer:  
University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust  
[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Locally Employed Doctor \(Higher\) in Emergency Medicine QEHB job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[49]</sup>

- **Locally Employed Doctor (Higher) in Respiratory Medicine - QEHB**

Birmingham, B15 2TH

Salary:

£61825.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Locally Employed Doctor \(Higher\) in Respiratory Medicine - QEHB job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[50]</sup>

- **Trust Doctor/Fellow POCUS and SDEC (Acute Medicine)**

Guildford, GU2 7XX

Salary:

£52656.00 to £65048.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Royal Surrey NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Trust Doctor/Fellow POCUS and SDEC \(Acute Medicine\) job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[51]</sup>

- **3974 - Locally Employed Doctor (CT3 equivalent) in Emergency Medicine**

Barnsley, S75 2EP

Salary:

£65048.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Barnsley Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for 3974 - Locally Employed Doctor \(CT3 equivalent\) in Emergency Medicine job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[52]</sup>

- **Trust Doctor in Acute General Medicine IMT 3/ST3 – ST5**

Oxford, OX3 9DU

Salary:

£61825.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Trust Doctor in Acute General Medicine IMT 3/ST3 – ST5 job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[53]</sup>

- **Clinical Fellow Trust Doctor in Emergency Medicine with Spec. Interest**

Worthing, BN11 2DH

Salary:

£37068.00 to £57570.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

University Hospitals Sussex NHS Foundation Trust (279)

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Clinical Fellow Trust Doctor in Emergency Medicine with Spec. Interest job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[54]</sup>

- **Dermatology Doctor**

Swindon, SN3 3RB

Salary:

£550.00

Type:

Bank

Employer:

CHEC

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Dermatology Doctor job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[55]</sup>

- **Dermatology Doctor**

Wandsworth, SW18 4WW

Salary:

£550.00

Type:

Bank

Employer:

CHEC

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Dermatology Doctor job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[56]</sup>

- **ENT Doctor**

Worthing, BN11 3BN

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Bank

Employer:

CHEC

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for ENT Doctor job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[57]</sup>



- **Dermatology Doctor**

London, SE14 6BL

Salary:

£550.00

Type:

Bank

Employer:

CHEC

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Dermatology Doctor job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[58]</sup>

- **ENT Doctor**

Canterbury, CT1 1BN

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Bank

Employer:

CHEC

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for ENT Doctor job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[59]</sup>

- **Dermatology Doctor**

Slough, SL1 2EJ

Salary:

£550.00

Type:

Bank

Employer:

CHEC

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Dermatology Doctor job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[60]</sup>

- **Dermatology Doctor**

Slough, SL1 2EJ

Salary:

£550.00

Type:

Bank

Employer:

CHEC

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

- **Specialty Doctor**

Kewstoke, BS22 9UZ

Salary:

£90000.00 to £90000.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Cygnnet Health Care

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Specialty Doctor job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[62]</sup>

- **Speciality Doctor**

Southall, UB2 4SD

Salary:

£59175.00 to £95400.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

West London NHS Trust

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

- **Specialist Doctor**

Coxheath, ME17 4AH

Salary:

£59175.00 to £95400.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Specialist Doctor job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[64]</sup>

- **Further information**

These organisations have further information about being an infectious diseases doctor, particularly as your career progresses. Take a look.

[British HIV Association](#) <sup>[65]</sup>

[British Infection Association](#) <sup>[66]</sup>

[European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases](#) <sup>[67]</sup>

Royal College of Physicians [68]

Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh [69]

Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow [70]

Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene [71]

And read this article about working in infectious diseases medicine:

Dr Karen Devine – ST4, infectious diseases (RCPE) [72]

## Other roles that may interest you

- Acute internal medicine [73]
- Emergency medicine [74]
- Genitourinary medicine [75]
- Medical microbiology and virology (doctor) [76]

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**Source URL:** <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/doctors/roles-doctors/medicine/infectious-diseases>

### Links

[1] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#Catheter> [2]  
[https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#Lumbar\\_puncture](https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#Lumbar_puncture) [3]  
[https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#Foundation\\_training](https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#Foundation_training) [4]  
<https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/doctors/career-opportunities-doctors/sas-doctors> [5]  
<https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/doctors/pay-doctors> [6]  
<https://foundationprogramme.nhs.uk/> [7] <https://specialtytraining.hee.nhs.uk/> [8]  
<https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9328-25-0783> [9]  
<https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9200-25-0797> [10]  
<https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9387-25-1388> [11]  
<https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9432-25-0880> [12]  
<https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9208-25-0547> [13]  
<https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9290-25-0889> [14]  
<https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9309-25-0743> [15]  
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<https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9273-25-0226> [17]  
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<https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9196-25-1284> [21]  
<https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9389-25-0657> [22]  
<https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9188-25-0652> [23]  
<https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9259-25-1699> [24]  
<https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9196-25-1365> [25]  
<https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9421-25-0547> [26]  
<https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9190-25-0848> [27]  
<https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9229-25-0494> [28]  
<https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9153-25-0801> [29]  
<https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/B0149-25-0009> [30]  
<https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9377-CARP4584MED> [31]

<https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9377-CARP4604MED> [32]  
<https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9151-25-0853> [33]  
<https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9326-25-0466> [34]  
<https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9426-25-0238> [35]  
<https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9362-25-0616> [36]  
<https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9344-25-0724> [37]  
<https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9344-25-0728> [38]  
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<https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9344-25-0727> [40]  
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