

# Endocrinology and diabetes

Endocrinologists and diabetologists investigate, diagnose and treat disorders of the endocrine system [1].

Typically, you'll work in both diabetes and endocrinology although some specialists focus on one area and not the other.

Two female doctors consulting notes

## Life as an endocrinologist or diabetologist

Predominantly an outpatient specialty, some of your patients will require hospital admission for you to investigate and manage their condition. In addition, you'll often support primary care [2] (GPs) in some of the public health challenges such as obesity and type 2 diabetes.

What's more, at least 15% of all hospital inpatients have diabetes or an endocrine disorder. Increasingly, you'll manage patients jointly with other hospital-based colleagues. As a specialism that covers the effects of hormones on the whole body, you also have skills that can help across all of general medicine and often help support emergency admissions to hospital for people with a broad range of conditions.

One of the great things about the specialty is there is no typical day. You may see people of all ages with newly diagnosed type 1 diabetes, or diabetic complications or with diabetes in certain circumstances, for example pregnancy. As an endocrinologist, you'll work in a specialist setting treating patients with a wide range of endocrine disorders. You may be leading team meetings (called multi-disciplinary meetings) or teaching other students or doctors about how to diagnose the more challenging conditions. It is a career that you can mould to your strengths.

Endocrinologists and diabetologists treat conditions such as:

- diabetes mellitus
- thyroid disease
- lipid disorders
- endocrine disorders of the reproductive system, such as polycystic ovary syndrome
- adrenal disease
- bone and calcium disorders
- pituitary disease

- endocrine late effects of cancer treatment

Common procedures include:

- programmed investigations for complex endocrine disorders
- managing endocrine patients and patients with diabetes before and after surgery
- management of diabetic and endocrine emergencies such as ketoacidosis and hypercalcaemia
- managing diabetes and endocrine conditions during pregnancy

You'll also be expected to perform as part of a large, multidisciplinary team including specialist nurses, allied health professionals and other specialist clinicians, and work across medical wards treating patients with general medical problems.

## 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
- ability to choose parts of the specialty to focus on
- 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 as an endocrinologist or diabetologist?**

There are approximately 791 endocrinologists and diabetologists working in the NHS in England. In 2020, there were 325 applications for 74 training places.

## **How to become an endocrinologist or diabetologist**

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 then get experience of all medical specialties over three years (internal medicine training).

You can then apply for paid specialty training <sup>[7]</sup> to become an endocrinologist or diabetologist, which will take a minimum of four years.

You may be able to train part time, for example for health reasons or if you have family or caring responsibilities.

Many people do it in combination with an academic post at the university to research more about the conditions they are seeing.

## **Where a career as an endocrinologist or diabetologist can take you**

Many endocrinologists and diabetologists develop sub-specialty interests such as:

- diabetes in pregnancy
- paediatric and adolescent diabetes and endocrinology
- diabetic renal disease
- diabetic neuropathy and foot problems
- diabetic eye disease
- thyroid problems
- pituitary and adrenal disease
- reproductive endocrinology
- endocrine late effects of cancer treatment
- lipid disorders
- gender identity services

- bariatric medicine
- metabolic <sup>[8]</sup> bone disease
- neuroendocrine tumours

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#### ○ Consultant Diabetes and Endocrinology

Southport, PR8 6PN

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Mersey and West Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust

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

#### ○ Consultant in Diabetes and Endocrinology

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 Diabetes and Endocrinology job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[10]</sup>

#### ○ Consultant in Diabetes and Endocrinology

Ashford, TN24 0LZ

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant in Diabetes and Endocrinology job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[11]</sup>

- **Consultant in Diabetes and Endocrinology**

North Tyneside, NE29 8NH

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant in Diabetes and Endocrinology job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[12]</sup>

- **Consultant Physician in Diabetes and Endocrinology**

Slough, SL2 4HL

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Frimley Health NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Physician in Diabetes and Endocrinology job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[13]</sup>

- **Consultant Physician Diabetes & Endocrinology & Acute Medicine**

Newport / Abergavenny, NP20 2UB

Salary:

£106000.00 to £154760.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Aneurin Bevan University Health Board

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Physician Diabetes & Endocrinology & Acute Medicine job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[14]</sup>

- **Locum Consultant Diabetologist**

Sidcup, DA14 6LT

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Trust

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

- **Locum Consultant in Diabetes and Endocrinology Medicine**

Reading, RG1 5AN

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust

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

- **Consultant Paediatrician with Interest in Diabetes and Endocrinology**

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 Paediatrician with Interest in Diabetes and Endocrinology job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[17]</sup>

- **Consultant Physician (Special Interest in Diabetes and Endocrinology)**

Wakefield, WF14DG

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

The Mid Yorkshire Teaching NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Physician \(Special Interest in Diabetes and](#)

[Endocrinology\) job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[18]</sup>

- **Consultant in Diabetes/ Endocrinology and General Internal Medicine**

Bodelwyddan, LL18 5UJ

Salary:

£106000.00 to £154760.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board

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

- **Consultant in Endocrinology & Diabetes & Gim £20,000 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 Endocrinology & Diabetes & Gim £20,000 Welcome Bonus job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[20]</sup>

- **Medical Secretary - Diabetes & Endocrinology**

Bath, BA1 3NG

Salary:

£24071.00 to £25674.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Medical Secretary - Diabetes & Endocrinology job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[21]</sup>

- **Higher Clinical Fellow in Diabetes & Endocrinology**

Leicester, LE1 5WW

Salary:

£61825.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Higher Clinical Fellow in Diabetes & Endocrinology job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[22]</sup>

- **Clinical Lead in Diabetes and Endocrinology**

Ashford, TN24 0LZ

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Clinical Lead in Diabetes and Endocrinology job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[23]</sup>

- **Consultant in Diabetes & Endocrine**

Worksop, S80 0BD

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Doncaster & Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals NHS FT

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

- **TPD - Endocrinology & Diabetes (North Central East London)**

London, E14 4PU

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Secondment

Employer:

NHS England

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for TPD - Endocrinology & Diabetes \(North Central East London\) job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[25]</sup>

- **Consultant - Ophthalmology - Medical Retina and Diabetic**

Truro, TR1 3LJ

Salary:



£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Royal Cornwall Hospitals Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant - Ophthalmology - Medical Retina and Diabetic job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[26]</sup>

- **Consultant Medical Virologist/Consultant Clinical Scientist**

Birmingham, B9 5SS

Salary:

£88168.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

UK Health Security Agency

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Medical Virologist/Consultant Clinical Scientist job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[27]</sup>

- **Diabetes Midwife**

Isleworth, TW7 6AF

Salary:

£42939.00 to £50697.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Chelsea and Westminster Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

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

- **Consultant Medical Virologist/Consultant Clinical Scientist**

Birmingham, B9 5SS

Salary:

£88168.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

UK Health Security Agency

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Medical Virologist/Consultant Clinical Scientist job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[27]</sup>

- **Post CCT Clinical Fellowship in Endocrinology**

Oxford, OX3 7LJ

Salary:

£70425.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Post CCT Clinical Fellowship in Endocrinology job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[29]</sup>

- **Dermatology Consultant**

Macclesfield, SK11 6HB

Salary:

£550.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

CHEC

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Dermatology Consultant job \(opens in a new window\)](#)  
<sup>[30]</sup>

- **Consultant Anaesthetist**

Grantham, NG31 8DG

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust

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

- **Consultant Nephrologist**

Bodelwyddan, LL18 5UJ

Salary:

£106000.00 to £154760.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board

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

- **Consultant Radiologist**

Yeovil, BA21 4AT

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Somerset NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Radiologist job \(opens in a new window\)](#)

[33]

- **Consultant Radiologist**

Llantrisant, CF72 8XR

Salary:

£106000.00 to £154760.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Radiologist job \(opens in a new window\)](#)

[34]

- **Consultant Geriatrician**

Steeton, BD20 6TD

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Airedale NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Geriatrician job \(opens in a new window\)](#)

[35]

- **Consultant Radiologist**

Llantrisant, CF72 8XR

Salary:

£106000.00 to £154760.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Radiologist job \(opens in a new window\)](#)

[34]

- **Consultant Radiologist**

Yeovil, BA21 4AT

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Somerset NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Radiologist job \(opens in a new window\)](#)

[33]

- **Consultant Dermatologist**

Salford, M6 8HD

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Northern Care Alliance NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Dermatologist job \(opens in a new window\)](#)

[36]

- **Consultant Hepatologist**

Luton, LU4 0DZ

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Bedfordshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Hepatologist job \(opens in a new window\)](#)

[37]

- **Consultant Dermatologist**

Camberley, GU16 6QQ

Salary:

£1.00

Type:

Locum

Employer:

18 Week Support Limited

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Dermatologist job \(opens in a new window\)](#)

[38]

- **Consultant Dermatologist**

Rochester, ME1 2EL

Salary:

£1.00

Type:

Locum

Employer:

18 Week Support Limited

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Dermatologist job \(opens in a new window\)](#)

[39]

- **Consultant Neurophysiologist**

Swansea, SA6 6NL

Salary:

£106000.00 to £154760.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Swansea Bay University Health Board

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Neurophysiologist job \(opens in a new window\)](#) [40]

- **Consultant Gynaecologist**

Telford, TF3 4LZ

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Bank

Employer:

18 Week Support Limited

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Gynaecologist job \(opens in a new window\)](#)

[41]

- **Consultant Histopathologist**

Chelsea, SW3 6JJ

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

The Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust

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

- **Consultant Psychiatrist**

Pentre, CF417BT

Salary:

£110240.00 to £160951.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board

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

<sup>[43]</sup>

- **Consultant Gynaecologist**

Telford, TF3 4LZ

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Bank

Employer:

18 Week Support Limited

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Gynaecologist job \(opens in a new window\)](#)

<sup>[41]</sup>

- **Consultant Anaesthetist**

Birmingham, B152QD

Salary:

£130000.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Practice Plus Group

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Anaesthetist job \(opens in a new window\)](#)

<sup>[44]</sup>

- **Consultant Orthogeriatrician**

Keighley, BD20 6TD

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Airedale NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Orthogeriatrician job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[45]</sup>

- **Gynaecology Consultant**

Gloucester, GL1 3PX

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Locum

Employer:

HealthHarmonie

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Gynaecology Consultant job \(opens in a new window\)](#)

<sup>[46]</sup>

- **Consultant Microbiologist**

Liverpool, L12 2AP

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Alder Hey Children's NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Microbiologist job \(opens in a new window\)](#)

<sup>[47]</sup>

- **Consultant Psychiatrist**

Baldock, SG7 6ND

Salary:

£160000.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Nouvita Limited

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

<sup>[48]</sup>

- **Consultant Geriatrician**

Salford, M6 8HD

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Northern Care Alliance NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Geriatrician job \(opens in a new window\)](#)

[49]

- **Rheumatology Consultant**

Rochdale, OL12 0NB

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Northern Care Alliance NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Rheumatology Consultant job \(opens in a new window\)](#)

[50]

- **Consultant Psychiatrist**

Mansfield , NG21 0HR

Salary:

£165000.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Cygnnet Health Care

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

[51]

- **Consultant Cardiologist**

London, SW17 0QT

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

St George's University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Cardiologist job \(opens in a new window\)](#)

[52]

- **Consultant Neurologist**



Taunton, TA1 5DA

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Somerset NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Neurologist job \(opens in a new window\)](#)

[53]

- **Consultant Neuropsychiatrist**

Widnes, WA8 5UY

Salary:

£165000.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Cygnnet Health Care

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Neuropsychiatrist job \(opens in a new window\)](#) [54]

- **Consultant Cardiologist**

London, SW17 0QT

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

St George's University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Cardiologist job \(opens in a new window\)](#)

[52]

- **Consultant Dermatologist**

Sevenoaks, TN13 3PG

Salary:

£1.00

Type:

Locum

Employer:

18 Week Support Limited

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Dermatologist job \(opens in a new window\)](#)

[55]

- **Consultant Psychiatrist**

Bromley, BR2 9JG

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust

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

[56]

- **Consultant Dermatologist**

Woking, GU23 7BP

Salary:

£1.00

Type:

Locum

Employer:

18 Week Support Limited

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Dermatologist job \(opens in a new window\)](#)

[57]

- **Consultant Physiotherapist**

Chelsea, SW3 6NP

Salary:

£70387.00 to £80465.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Physiotherapist job \(opens in a new window\)](#) [58]

- **Consultant Anaesthetist**

Whitehaven, CA28 8JG

Salary:

£93666.00 to £126281.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

North Cumbria Integrated Care NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Anaesthetist job \(opens in a new window\)](#)

[59]

- **Consultant Endoscopist**

Birmingham, B37 5TT

Salary:

£140000.00 to £160000.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

InHealth Group

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Endoscopist job \(opens in a new window\)](#)

[60]

- **Consultant Cardiologist**

Huntingdon, PE29 6NT

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

North West Anglia NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Cardiologist job \(opens in a new window\)](#)

[61]

- **Further information**

These organisations have further information about being an endocrinologist or diabetologist, particularly as your career progresses, so take a look.

[Royal College of Physicians](#) [62]

[Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh](#) [63]

[Association of British Clinical Diabetologists](#) [64]

[Diabetes UK](#) [65]

[Society for Endocrinology](#) [66]

[Young Diabetologists and Endocrinologist](#) [67]

And hear from people working as endocrinology and diabetes doctors.

Clinical Careers in Endocrinology and Diabetes (Society for Endocrinology) [68]

Careers in diabetes and endocrinology (BMJ) [69]

Profiles of people working in different areas of endocrinology (Society for Endocrinology) [70]

Dr Kelly Cheer, consultant in diabetes and endocrinology (RCP) [71]

## Other roles that may interest you

- General internal medicine [72]
- Acute internal medicine [73]
- Gastroenterology [74]
- Medical oncology [75]

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### Links

[1] [https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#Endocrine\\_system](https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#Endocrine_system) [2]  
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