

# Prison health service

This page covers opportunities in the prison health service and the skills and experience you will need to be successful in getting in.

## What opportunities are there?

Most doctors work within prison healthcare as a part of a specialty training rotation, but there are also limited opportunities for part-time and full-time roles. Most of these opportunities are in [primary care](#) <sup>[1]</sup> but experience in communicable diseases, drug abuse or mental health is also very useful. Supporting prisoner rehabilitation can be a challenging but rewarding position.

### • What skills and qualities do I need?

The main attributes you will need are:

- resilience
- communication skills
- teamwork

### • Getting in

It is important to be proactive in gaining experience in [primary care](#) <sup>[1]</sup>, emergency medicine, communicable diseases, mental health or treating drug abuse. You could also consider a postgraduate course in prison medicine as these teach relevant clinical skills as well as addressing ethical issues, and can be useful.

### • Further information

- [HM Prison Service](#) <sup>[2]</sup> (information and vacancies)
- [BMJ Careers](#) <sup>[3]</sup>

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**Source URL:**<https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/doctors/career-opportunities-doctors/alternative-roles-doctors/prison-health-service>

**Links**

[1] [https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#Primary\\_care](https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#Primary_care) [2] <https://jobs.justice.gov.uk/agency/hm-prisons-probations-service/> [3] <http://careers.bmj.com/careers/hospital-medical-healthcare-doctors-jobs.html>