

Training and development (CPT)

This page provides useful information on the training and development for this specialty and also has tips for people at all stages of their training including medical school.

The approved postgraduate training programme for clinical pharmacology and therapeutics is available from the [GMC curriculum for clinical pharmacology and therapeutics](#) [1].

The full training programme for clinical pharmacology and therapeutics lasts a minimum of six years. Selection takes place before entry to ST1 (after the foundation programme) and again before entry to ST3.

The main training pathways at ST1 for clinical pharmacology and therapeutics are:

- [core medical training](#) [2] (CMT), which is a two-year programme
- the acute care common stem in acute medicine (ACCS), which is a three-year programme
- the first 2 years of an approved GP training scheme including at least 12 months' hospital ST1 or ST2 posts approved for that purpose

Acquisition of full Membership of the Royal College of Physicians, [MRCP](#) [3] (UK) is required before entry into specialty training at ST3 if the trainee has undertaken CMT or ACCS as a core training programme.

CPT has four training pathways at ST3 level each lasting a minimum of four years:

- core CPT and general internal medicine (GIM) pathway
- core CPT and other specialty training pathway
- academic pathway (Core CPT, GIM and academic clinical fellowship,/clinical lecturer)
- [primary care](#) [4] pathway (combined with General Practice training)

Successful completion of specialty training (ST3-6) will enable you to gain a [Certificate of Completion of Training](#) [5] (CCT [6]) and to be registered on the Specialist Register in clinical pharmacology and therapeutics.

Detailed entry requirements and all essential and desirable criteria are listed in the [person specification 2017 for clinical pharmacology and therapeutics ST3](#) [7].

All [2017 person specifications](#) [8] can be found on the NHS specialty training website. Please note that these documents are updated every year in the autumn before the recruitment round opens.

[Stroke](#) [9] medicine is a subspecialty training programme open to clinical pharmacology and therapeutics trainees. Trainees should express an interest in [stroke](#) [9] training before their final year so that the first year of [stroke](#) [9] training can be integrated into their main specialty training. A second year of advanced [stroke](#) [9] medicine training is required to reach the level required of consultants. Entry to [stroke](#) [9] training is by competitive interview. Currently, there are two to three candidates for every post.

This information is correct at the time of writing. Full and accurate details of training pathways are available from medical royal colleges, [local education and training boards](#) [10] (LETBs) or the [GMC](#) [11].

Getting in tips

These tips will give you some ideas to add to your CV. Whether you're a medical student, foundation trainee or doing your core specialty training, there's information below to help you.

- Medical students

Expand / collapse

- join your university medical society
- attend conferences for medical students – this will give you an opportunity to network and meet your future colleagues
- get involved with the GMC (General Medical Council), eg medical students can participate in visits to medical schools as part of the GMC's [quality assurance](#) [12] process
- consider joining the specialist society for your chosen specialty as a student member, eg the [British Pharmacological Society](#) [13]
- consider becoming a student member of the BMA ([The British Medical Association](#) [14] is the trade union and professional association for doctors and provides careers advice)
- make your specialty decisions in good time so that you can test it out before committing yourself, eg by using hospital visits and clinical placements arranged as part of your course to ask questions and observe people at work
- choose the topic of your supervised research project carefully to test out your thinking

- Foundation trainees

Expand / collapse

- remember your first priority is to demonstrate that you have developed the personal, learning, clinical, practical and management skills needed by all doctors
- talk to your clinical and educational supervisors about particular areas of interest to explore
- use full placements to experience specialties that you might be interested in or

- apply for taster experiences if you can't get a placement
- don't just look at the popular and more glamorous specialties when considering your career choice
- talk with your peers about their career ideas and experiences – you may be able to help each other
- listen to information and advice from more experienced doctors but make your own decisions
- you must provisionally register with the GMC in year one of the Foundation Programme and become fully registered after successfully completing the first year
- taking part in a [clinical audit](#) ^[15] is important for your development as a doctor but you may be able to choose an audit project related to a specialty that interests you
- ensure your Foundation e-portfolio has plenty of medical evidence and that this is kept properly up-to-date
- try to gain teaching and management experience
- look at competition ratios (ie the number of applicants to places) critically. Find out what is happening this year and spot any regional differences in competition ratios

[View the careers resources on the Foundation Programme website](#) ^[16].

- core and specialty trainees

Expand / collapse

- speak to consultants about what the role is like
- read as much information as you can on the websites of relevant professional bodies
- question your own perceptions and possible negative stereotypes of the specialty
- impress interviewers by showing that your interest in the specialty is intrinsically motivated, ie you are drawn to the work and not just attracted by admiration of someone you have shadowed (You will also be happier in your career in that specialty many years later!)
- be prepared to move to where the vacancies are
- continue to develop your practical and academic expertise
- undertake a research project
- try to get some of your work published and present at national and international meetings
- join or start a Journal Club (a group who meet to critically evaluate academic research)
- teach junior colleagues
- take on any management opportunities you are offered

Source URL: <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/doctors/roles-doctors/medicine/clinical-pharmacology-and-therapeutics/training-and-development>

Links

- [1] http://www.gmc-uk.org/education/clinical_pharmacology_and_therapeutics.asp
- [2] https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#Core_medical_training
- [3] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#MRCP>
- [4] https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#Primary_care
- [5] https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#Certificate_of_completion_of_training
- [6] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#CCT>
- [7]

- <http://specialtytraining.hee.nhs.uk/portals/1/Content/Person%20Specifications/Clinical%20Pharmacology%20and%20>
- [8] <http://specialtytraining.hee.nhs.uk/specialty-recruitment/person-specifications-2013/2017-person-specifications/>
- [9] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#Stroke>
- [10] <https://www.hee.nhs.uk/about-us/our-leaders-structure/local-education-training-boards>
- [11] <http://www.gmc-uk.org/>
- [12] https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#Quality_assurance
- [13] <http://www.bps.ac.uk/>
- [14] <http://bma.org.uk/>
- [15] https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#Clinical_audit
- [16] <http://www.foundationprogramme.nhs.uk/pages/medical-students/your-career-path/resources>