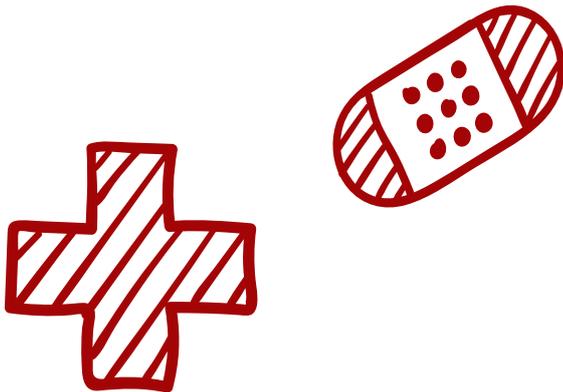


## Resource Pack

2016

*In association with:*



**FEW PEOPLE HAVE SUCH AN  
IMPORTANT IMPACT ON OUR  
LIVES AS THOSE THAT WORK  
INTHE MEDICAL SECTOR.**

People are always needed to care for the sick, elderly and pregnant women; it's one of the most rewarding career paths available.

You probably associate the medical sector with doctors, surgeons and nurses.

However, this is a wide and varied sector that requires people with lots of different skills and qualifications. In short, you don't need a medical background to make an impact.

As the biggest employer in Europe, the National Health Service (NHS) has no shortage of jobs available for medical workers. Behind the scenes of hospitals, pharmacies, GP surgeries and dental practices, lies a huge network of people who support medical practitioners and keep the systems running smoothly.



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From academic research and product development in the pharmaceutical sector, through to finance, human resources, IT and marketing roles, the NHS employs a diverse range of people from various different backgrounds.

The NHS may be the main employer in the UK for health workers, but it certainly isn't the only one. There are lots of roles in private healthcare, voluntary and not-for-profit organisations for both school leavers and graduates.

In fact, the availability of jobs is constantly increasing, as growing demand for medical services from an ageing population in the UK has created a skills shortage in areas such as A&E, general practice and critical nursing.

The need for fresh talent makes this sector an incredibly attractive career path.



## TYPES OF MEDICAL ROLES

There are 27 different pathways within medicine, and many different roles that underpin these departments.

Here are just a few of the most well-known jobs available in the medical profession:



### GP

General practitioners (GPs) play an important role in the local community, as a first point of contact for patients who need medical advice, diagnoses and assistance.



### NURSE

Nurses care for the sick, elderly and pregnant, monitoring their condition and administering treatment such as medication.

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### MIDWIFE

Midwives deliver the next generation safely into the world, and support expecting mothers through their pregnancy and birth.



### DENTIST

Caring for your teeth and gums is important too. Dentists help to maintain and restore the oral health of their patients, through dental treatment and regular check-ups.



### OPTICIAN

As an optician, you help people to maintain healthy eyes, and improve the vision of those with poor eyesight by prescribing glasses and contact lenses.



### MEDICAL ASSISTANT

From caring for patients to filing paperwork, medical assistants have a varied and hands-on role that is vital to the smooth-running of any medical organisation.



### MEDICAL RESEARCHER

Medical researchers lead the way in discovering new medicines and treatments, to cure diseases and help us better understand the human body.

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### ROUTES INTO A MEDICAL CAREER

Medical workers have an immense amount of knowledge about the human body, which can be gained through formal education, or schemes that will help you gain hands-on experience and training.



### A LEVELS

If you're thinking of pursuing a career in medicine, it's a wise idea to take science-based A Levels that will broaden your knowledge and keep your options open. Chemistry and Biology are relevant courses for both apprenticeships and university; for some routes, Maths and/or Physics courses are also recommended.



### APPRENTICESHIPS

With the growing diversity of medical careers, apprenticeships are becoming a popular route into the medical sector, allowing you to dive into the action from day one and earn while you learn.

If you don't want to go to university, there are plenty of roles available through apprenticeships, including dental assistants, emergency care assistants and clinical support staff.

Advanced Level schemes (leading to Level 3+) usually require four to five GCSEs, although entry requirements are much lower for Intermediate schemes (leading to Level 2).

You might find some surprising routes into a medical career. For example, one route is through the Royal Navy.

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Their Health and Social Care Apprenticeship will give you the opportunity to travel the world, whilst caring for your crew mates as a medical assistant on base, at sea, or in the air.

During this Level 2 Apprenticeship, you would be working alongside a dedicated, experienced and caring team, earning a salary of up to £16,681 a year. It's a great route into healthcare for school leavers with an interest in medicine.

Find out more about Royal Navy Careers at:

[www.royalnavy.mod.uk/careers](http://www.royalnavy.mod.uk/careers)

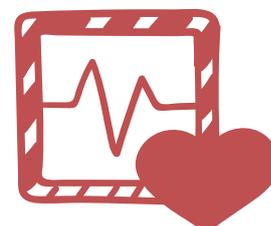
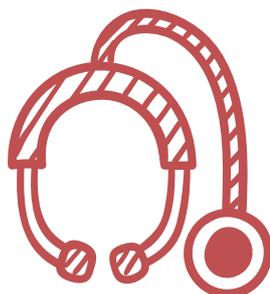


## UNIVERSITY

For highly skilled roles such as doctors, surgeons and dentists, formal education is the only route to full qualification. Degrees can range from three to seven years, depending on the course and level of expertise you decide to pursue.

Most courses include placements, to help you gain experience as well as the skills and knowledge you need to qualify. If you take a foundation degree in Medicine, you can go on to specialise in one of the 27 pathways through Core Medical Training (CMT) or Acute Care Common Stem (ACCS) training, to become a registered GP or specialist.

However, there are lots of other courses leading into medical careers, including Pharmacy, Nursing, Optometry, Genetics and more.



*More useful resources*

**Need more help with your careers choices? You can find a wealth of help and opportunities at the following places :**



## ROYAL NAVY

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## THEBIGCHOICE.COM

Find quality advice and opportunities in apprenticeships, part-time jobs and training on this youth careers portal.

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## SCHOOL LEAVERS GUIDE

This interactive app guide brings together expert advice, guidance on career steps and positions from top employers via your tablet or smartphone.

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## NATIONAL CAREERS SERVICE

The official place for careers advice and information in the UK.

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## NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP SERVICE

Everything you need on apprenticeships and the best vacancies on offer.