

Myths about doctors surgeries

You work by yourself. True or False?

False: Whilst you will see patients on a 1 to 1 basis, you will still be part of a team including GPs, nurses, HCAs, Pharmacists, support staff such as receptionists and managers etc

Only older people go to the doctors. True or False?

False: People of all ages go to the doctors. It can vary, eg at a practice attached to a university, you will mainly see young people whereas a practice in a town centre might see patients from babies to adults.

Doctors couldn't do their job without the support of the whole practice team. True or False?

True: Everybody has their own role to play within the team and are equally important.

There is no career progression working in a doctors surgery. True or False?

False: You can progress from being a HCA to a nurse practitioner, and a receptionist to a practice manager if you develop the right skills and qualifications. There are also routes in at entry level as an Apprentice.

Next steps

There's lots of information available to help you decide if a career in General Practice is right for you.

- Visit www.nhscareers.nhs.uk for more information
- Give health careers a call on 0345 60 60 655 to talk through different career options
- Visit HEE Apprenticeships pages <https://hee.nhs.uk/apprenticeships>
- Visit our website if you would like to arrange work experience in a local practice <https://hee.nhs.uk/hee-your-area/east-england/our-work/work-experience-east>



As cliché as this may sound—it is true, no day is the same in General practice.

Managing patients with heart attacks, bereavements and fertility problems all in a day.

I meet and work with more people now that ever before. Working together in a team of different professionals to best support patients is not only rewarding but a privilege'

Dr Ahmad Mahmood,
GP Peterborough



**“No day is ever the same”
Working in a GP Surgery**



**Health
Careers**



Much more than visiting your doctor....

All sorts of people work in your local doctors surgery doing all sorts of things to make a difference to patients lives every day.

Just imagine if you were working in a doctors surgery, you could be a:

- Receptionist
- Phlebotomist (taking blood samples)
- Health Care Assistant (HCA)
- Nurse
- Pharmacist (giving out medicine)
- Practice manager
- GP (Doctor)

Getting in

If you decide on being part of the team then think carefully about the training route you'll want to take and the area you would like to work in. Some work experience or volunteering may help you decide.

You could join a team as a Health Care Assistant, Pharmacy Technician or receptionist and get on the job training from the practice or with an apprenticeship. You might prefer to study for a degree in an area such as nursing, healthcare Science or medicine to become a nurse, pharmacist or Doctor (GP)

Apprenticeships

Apprenticeships are a fantastic route to becoming a HCA, receptionist, pharmacy technician or another member of the support team. You work and study at the same time, receiving a small salary during your training. You could then have a starting salary of £14k a year with the opportunity to earn more as you progress.

Find out more at:

<https://hee.nhs.uk/apprenticeships>

Undergraduate degrees

There are lots of degree options depending on the role you take

Nurse - Most commonly practice nurses follow an 'Adult' nursing route. When you qualify and join a practice you can then train in the skills which are unique to general practice

Practice manager - business administration or management should prepare you for an understanding of business

Pharmacist - a degree in sciences followed by a masters in pharmacy will allow you to work as a pharmacist

Doctor - The route to becoming a GP takes around 10 years. You would start with a degree in medicine, then move to post graduate education and become a foundation doctor. Finally you train specifically in general practice.

Post graduate– GP

Dr– the speciality training to become a GP takes 3 years and you spend this time working in both GP surgeries and hospitals to learn about a range of medical areas such as children's medicine; older peoples medicine; ear, nose and throat, and skin conditions.

Find out more at:

<https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/>