

Thinking about Career in Palliative Medicine?

Why choose Palliative Medicine?

If you are passionate about delivering high-quality, multi-disciplinary, patient-centred care, then Palliative Medicine could be the specialty for you!

As a trainee, you will learn to care for patients with a range of illnesses, of all ages and in a variety of settings including patients' homes, in hospital, and in hospices. You will learn to think on your feet while developing excellent communication and clinical skills to ensure individualised, holistic care for patients and their families.

As a dynamic multidisciplinary specialty, there is ample opportunity to help shape the future by becoming involved in collaborative research, quality improvement and education during your training and beyond.

More information?

Association for Palliative Medicine of Great Britain and Ireland (APM) is the world's largest representative body of doctors practicing or interested in Palliative Medicine.

<https://apmonline.org>

APM Juniors Committee is a group representing pre-speciality interest in Palliative Medicine, for medical students and doctors below ST3 level.

Twitter: **@apmjuniors**

Facebook: **APM Juniors**

APM Trainees Committee is for specialty and specialist registrars and aims to represent, information-gather and aid networking.

Twitter: **@apm_trainees**

Facebook: **APM Trainees**

The Medical Workforce

Consultants

According to the 2017/18 Physician RCP Census there are 622 consultants with 53% working less than full time (LTFT) resulting in 520 whole time equivalent (WTE) posts. 76% of the consultants in the UK are female compared with 36% in the medical consultant workforce as a whole.

Higher Specialty Trainees (HSTs)

In the 2017/18 RCP Physician Census there were 212 HSTs equating to 185 WTE posts. 85% of HSTs are female (compared with 51% in all medical specialties combined). Encouragingly 96% of trainees who responded were satisfied with the specialty training.

SAS Doctors

SAS doctors play a vital role in MDTs with 292 WTE according to 2016 SAC data.

The Consultant's Role

There is a growing need for consultants in Palliative Medicine due to a combination of an aging population with increasing comorbidity and clinical complexity in both oncological and non-oncological fields.

Palliative Medicine Consultants offer medical leadership to specialist multi-professional palliative care teams in a variety of settings including acute hospitals, the community and hospices. Their core roles include:

1. Clinical expertise
2. Leadership of Palliative Care Services
3. Clinical Governance
4. Education
5. Research

Focus on the Clinical Role

Consultants provide clinical expertise in several ways including:

- Assessment of complex symptoms from an understanding of underlying pathology.
- Assessment and support of patients who are dying and their families.
- Formulation of evidence-based, individualised management plans.
- Advising other clinicians on ethical decision making and symptom control.

This may involve hospice ward rounds, hospital and domiciliary visits, outpatient clinics and leading Palliative Care MDTs. There is a need for flexible, responsive working – two days are rarely the same!