GP Roles

GP Partners

General practice in the UK has traditionally been run on a partnership model where practices are owned by the GPs themselves (GP Partners) and are subcontracted to provide services for the NHS. The GP Partners then take a share from the profit that the practice produces. As a partner, you will be responsible for the running of the practice and will be expected not only to provide clinical sessions, but also to play an active role in the administrative and business side of the practice.

Unlike salaried GPs, there is no set income range for GP Partners. A partner’s income is dependent upon both the finances of the practice and the way in which income is distributed within the partnership, so how much you can earn will vary between practices. However, in 2014/15 the average income for a GP Partner in the UK was £101,500.

Salaried GPs

Salaried GPs are employed by a practice and receive a salary for a contracted number of hours worked.

There is a minimum set of terms and conditions (‘the Model Contract’) that applies to all salaried GPs employed by a GMS practice and the NHS Standard Personal Medical Services Agreement 2015/16 stated that PMC practices should offer salaried GPs terms which are no less favourable than those in the Model Contract. The Model Contract terms and conditions bring important improvements for salaried GPs, in line with the terms and conditions of other employed doctors in the NHS.

The suggested minimum salary range for salaried GPs is £56,525 to £85,298; however, employers have the flexibility to offer enhanced pay rates. In addition, under the Model Contract, a salaried GP's salary must be uplifted annually.

GP Locum

GP Locums are freelance GPs who can be engaged to cover leave or sickness, and to back-fill a practice GP attending a meeting or activity outside the practice. Working as a locum provides a good opportunity to work in a variety of practices. You will see a wide range of patients - and ways of running a practice – and so it provides a good way to get to know a local area, and to gain vital experience. It also allows for a good work-life balance by putting you in control of how much, and when, you work.

GPs generally work freelance in 3 different ways:

- As independent freelance locum
- As part of a freelance GP chambers
- Employed through an agency

Locum rates of pay can vary depending on which route you take.
Sessional GPs

This term encompasses both salaried GPs, and GP locums.

Portfolio jobs

Aside from being a GP Partner, Salaried GP or Locum GP, there are number of exciting opportunities for GPs to have portfolio jobs, either full or part-time. These could include:

- GP with Special Interest (GPwSI) jobs are available in Dermatology, Diabetes, minor surgery and many other specialities in which you may have special interest
- Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG) roles range from CCG Chair/Accountable officer to Clinical Director level. These jobs can be done full time or part time
- Teaching and training roles are available if you are interested in becoming a GP educator. Depending on your interest you could either train medical students, Foundation year doctors or GP specialist trainees
- GP Leadership Roles include Associate Medical Director/Medical Directors of community trusts and mental health trusts
- Working for prison health services as a GP
- Working exclusively in Out of Hours GP services