



Choose GP

Start your
general practice
journey today



What is general practice?

General practice provides continuing, comprehensive, and coordinated person-centred healthcare to patients in their communities.

GPs and GP-led multi-disciplinary teams manage the widest range of health problems, addressing the physical, social, and psychological aspects of patients' wellbeing throughout their lives.

GPs have a key role in deciding how health and social services should be coordinated to deliver safe, effective, and accessible care to patients in their communities.

Every day across the UK, more than 1 million consultations take place in general practice.

“As a child, our GP was the central point in all our family care. This level of care has carried on throughout my life and our GP is always the first point of care.”

Patient



What is a GP?

GPs are expert medical generalists who provide the first point of contact with the NHS for most people in their communities. GPs contribute hugely to keeping the nation healthy.

GPs deal with complexity and uncertainty on a daily basis. They become experts in their patients by building relationships, understanding their needs, and treating them throughout their lives.

GPs make a positive impact to the individuals, families, and communities they serve.



WHY CHOOSE GENERAL PRACTICE?

Design a career to suit you

Embark on a flexible, diverse, and fulfilling career.

Develop a portfolio career.

Lead work in areas from geriatrics to neurology, carry out 'in-reach' to hospitals and 'outreach' to patients' homes. Combine clinical practice with other interests such as politics, research, and medical education.

Develop an extended role.

Provide an additional specialist service in your community or further afield in a wide range of clinical areas from cardiology, dermatology, and minor surgery to mental and sexual health.

Develop autonomy by moving between different roles and locations.

Throughout your career, build flexible working patterns around the needs of your patients as well as your personal life.



“To me, general practice means choice. Choice in all aspects of my career. It means the possibility of pursuing any number of my current interests while equipping me with a broad medical basis. In no other specialty can you consider an extended role in palliative care or paediatrics, conduct research and all whilst maintaining a broad practicing base.”

Foundation Doctor

WHY CHOOSE GENERAL PRACTICE?

Become an expert medical generalist

Diagnose a wide range of complex conditions, both quickly and compassionately.

Deliver highly effective personalised care.

Combine practical and scholarly aspects of delivering highly effective personalised care to individuals, their families, and your community.

Lead multi-disciplinary teams.

Manage the widest range of health problems, providing both systematic and opportunistic health promotion, making accurate diagnoses and risk assessments. Deal with multi-morbidity, coordinate long-term care, and address the physical, social, and psychological aspects of patients' wellbeing throughout their lives.

Never stop learning.

You'll continue to develop your vast range of clinical knowledge, skills, and experiences long after completing your training.

“You are guaranteed to learn something new every day, be that a rare condition, treatment, or something about a patient whom you may have known for a long time. Uniquely, in a time of more protocols and paperwork than ever, you can treat multiple generations of the same family, ensuring a more meaningful type of medicine for both the doctor and patients.”

GP registrar

WHY CHOOSE GENERAL PRACTICE?

Thrive as a member of #TeamGP

Work with multi-disciplinary teams, in a range of practice and community settings, delivering comprehensive person-centred care.

Face the challenges of modern healthcare.

As part of a multi-disciplinary team, you'll deliver cost-effective care in your community to satisfy patient needs throughout their lives.

Be empowered to lead.

In a profession where teamwork, problem solving, and creativity are required daily, lead on projects for which you have the passion, knowledge, and skill.

Inspire the next generation.

As a GP you will have a unique skill set enabling you to take on roles in medical education as part of a portfolio career.

Work collaboratively.

Share best practice and carry out quality improvement activities to benefit the wider health community.



8



“ This job is variety in all its glory. A panoply of people giving me a fleeting glimpse into their lives. The computer screen gives me the monochrome version, I get the technicolour glory. The joy of a birth or the sadness of death. They are mothers, husbands, carers, friends, and neighbours. I am their listener and advocate. We work together as a team piecing together a complex jigsaw.”

Established GP

9



WHY CHOOSE GENERAL PRACTICE?

Shape the future of primary care

Lead enhancements in healthcare, both locally and nationally, to improve patient care.

Pioneer new ways of working.

In an ever-changing healthcare landscape, embrace technology and tackle new medical challenges with additional clinical skills and innovative ways of providing patient care.

Develop improved services.

Strategically develop how health and social services can be coordinated to deliver safe, effective, and accessible care to patients in your communities.

Take on new and exciting roles both clinically and as a leader.

As care increasingly moves into the community, you'll design and manage services for your patients.

Take on academic roles.

To provide the evidence future general practice will need, work with outstanding research institutions and make significant contributions to the care of patients around the world.

“My leadership time is supported by my practice and allows me to consider innovation in the respect of the clinical services and their delivery both within and outside the practice.”

GP Federation Director

“There are so many questions in general practice that need to be answered through clinical research led by GPs. Our research has led to changes in guidelines, so what we do really does make a difference.”

Academic GP

WHY CHOOSE GENERAL PRACTICE?

Deliver extensive person-centred care

Provide highly effective personalised care to individuals, their families and populations in primary care and community settings.

Become an advocate for your patients.

Ensure your patients receive the best possible care by empowering them to manage their own health and make informed decisions about their care and treatment.

Apply evidence and compassion when making clinical decisions.

You'll manage uncertainty and develop a detailed knowledge of the people and diversity in your local community.

See patients in a variety of settings.

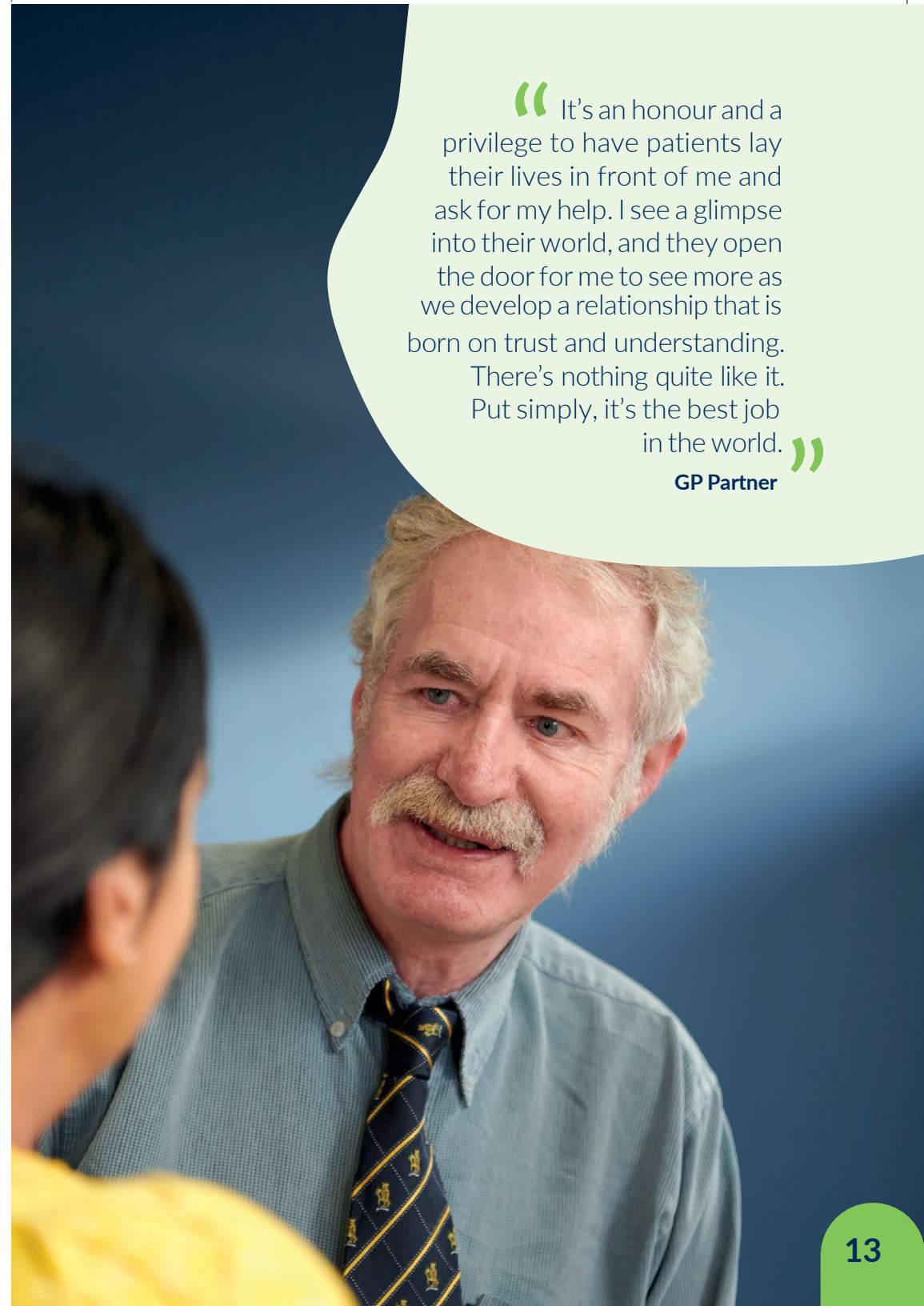
From your morning surgery and out-of-hours services to hospital environments, sporting events, remote and rural locations, and the privilege of seeing a patient in their own home.



12

“ It's an honour and a privilege to have patients lay their lives in front of me and ask for my help. I see a glimpse into their world, and they open the door for me to see more as we develop a relationship that is born on trust and understanding. There's nothing quite like it. Put simply, it's the best job in the world. ”

GP Partner



13



Becoming a GP

Having successfully graduated from medical school and completed time as a foundation doctor or equivalent, the following steps are required to qualify as a GP in the UK.

To gain entry onto the General Medical Council's (GMC) GP register you must undertake a minimum of three years (full time equivalent) specialty training on a GMC-approved training programme.

BECOMING A GP

1 APPLY

All GP Specialty Training (GPST) programmes in the UK are recruited to via a national process managed by the GP National Recruitment Office (GPNRO).

Recruitment to GPST usually takes place three times per year, in November, February and July.

Submitted applications will be assessed using a standard, national, and consistent staged process. The competency-based selection process allows applicants to demonstrate their abilities and suitability for GP training. Applications are assessed by the demonstration of competences as outlined in the GP ST1 Person Specification.

Entry is highly competitive. For more information on competition ratios and the number of available vacancies in each region visit gprecruitment.hee.nhs.uk

The shortlisting method, known as the Multi-Specialty Recruitment Assessment (MSRA) involves undertaking a computer-based assessment.

Doctors who have other relevant training or experience from the UK or overseas may apply to combine this with their GP training.



BECOMING A GP

2 TRAIN

Once offered a training place, GP training usually consists of at least 24 months in general practice posts and a combination of hospital and integrated posts. It also includes taking the MRCGP assessments.

The MRCGP comprises three separate components:

Applied Knowledge Test (AKT)

Simulated Consultation Assessment (SCA)

Workplace Based Assessment (WPBA).

Satisfactory completion of the MRCGP is a prerequisite for obtaining a Certificate of Completion of Training (CCT).

3 QUALIFY

Having completed the requirements of GP training, you'll receive a Certificate of Completion of Training (CCT) which allows you to practice independently in the UK.

Your Professional Home

Becoming a GP is incredibly enriching and rewarding. It is a career with great purpose and is intellectually and medically challenging, diverse, and fulfilling. The RCGP is here to help you discover the endless opportunities that a career in general practice can offer.

The RCGP is the professional home of general practice. With RCGP membership, you join your professional family. We'll help you prepare for a life in general practice with career guidance, mentoring, tools and training, to take you through your MRCP assessments and beyond. We'll be with you every step of the way.

Develop your clinical competence.

We'll help you take your first steps into general practice, with proven tools to navigate through GP training and beyond.

Connect with a diverse community.

As a member, you can share your experiences and access the knowledge and support that enables you to design a career that suits you.

Represent your professional needs.

As part of this professional family, your voice will be heard and valued within the profession and amplified to government and other key decision makers.

Celebrate your achievements.

From the start of your GP journey and as you progress throughout your career, we will celebrate your excellence and the valued contribution of each of our members.

Discover more about how the RCGP can support you and how you can get involved at rcgp.org.uk/membership



“General practice is the most fulfilling career. As a GP, you, and your team, are often the patient’s first port of call when they need help for a whole variety of presentations. The long-term doctor and patient relationship, and knowledge you gain from the continuity of care of your patients can be the most satisfying thing about being a doctor.”

**Professor Kamila Hawthorne,
RCGP Chair (2022-2025)**



Royal College of
General Practitioners

**Royal College of General Practitioners
30 Euston Square, London, NW1 2FB**

RCGP is a registered charity in England & Wales (No. 223106)
and Scotland (No.SC040430)

rcgp.org.uk/membership

facebook.com/rcgp.org

twitter.com/rcgp

instagram.com/royalcollegeofgps

Photographs used in this publication are of RCGP members and their practice colleagues.