

Career of the Month November: *Careers in Medicine*

Medicine is all about helping people stay healthy or feel better when they're unwell or injured. There are lots of different careers in this area, some involve working directly with patients, while others focus on science, technology or support roles. If you care about others and enjoy subjects like science, health or problem-solving, there could be a role in medicine that's right for you.

• Doctor

Doctors are medical professionals who diagnose illnesses, treat injuries and help people manage long-term health conditions. Some work in GP surgeries, helping patients with everyday health concerns, while others work in hospitals treating more serious conditions. Doctors often specialise later in their career — some become surgeons, paediatricians (children's doctors), or focus on areas like heart health or cancer. This career involves a lot of study, but it's hugely respected and rewarding.



• Paramedic

Paramedics are trained to provide emergency medical care when people are seriously ill or injured. They work in ambulances and are often the first on the scene at accidents or 999 calls. Paramedics assess the situation, give life-saving treatment and make quick decisions under pressure. They also drive emergency vehicles and work closely with doctors and nurses when patients arrive at hospital. It's a fast-paced job where no two days are the same.



• Nurse

Nurses play a key role in caring for patients. They check on people's health, give medication, change bandages, and offer emotional support during tough times. Nurses work



in hospitals, care homes, clinics, and sometimes in people's own homes. They can specialise in areas such as adult nursing, children's nursing, mental health, or learning disabilities. Nursing is a caring, hands-on job that makes a real difference to people's lives.

• **Midwife**

Midwives support people through pregnancy, labour and the early days of parenthood. They monitor the health of both the parent and the baby, give advice, and help during the birth. Midwives need to stay calm, be caring, and know how to act quickly if something goes wrong. They often work in hospitals or visit people at home. This is a deeply rewarding role that's all about supporting families at one of the most important times in their lives.



• **Pharmacist**

Pharmacists are experts in medicines. They check prescriptions, give advice to patients and make sure medicines are safe and used correctly. Pharmacists work in places like chemists (e.g. Boots or Superdrug), hospitals, and GP surgeries. They help treat common health problems and also make sure patients understand how to take their medication properly. Some pharmacists also work in research or help design new drugs.



• **Medical Laboratory Assistant**

Medical lab assistants work behind the scenes in hospital laboratories, helping to test samples like blood, urine or tissue. These tests help doctors diagnose diseases and decide on the right treatment. Lab assistants prepare equipment, label and store samples, and help scientists and technicians carry out tests. This is a great career if you enjoy science and want to work in healthcare without being on the front line with patients.



- **Physiotherapist**

Physiotherapists help people improve movement and reduce pain after injury, surgery, or illness. They create personalised exercise plans and use techniques like massage, stretches and special equipment. Physiotherapists work with people of all ages — from athletes recovering from injury to older adults building strength after an operation. It's a great job for someone who enjoys biology, sport or helping people get back on their feet.



- **Occupational Therapist**

Occupational therapists help people live more independently and do everyday activities like getting dressed, cooking, or using public transport. Their patients may be recovering from illness, injury, or have a long-term disability. OTs work in schools, hospitals and people's homes, supporting both children and adults. It's a job that combines problem-solving, creativity and compassion.

