

# MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS

## Practitioners

In Britain, doctors, also known as medical practitioners, must be qualified: have a university degree in medicine. A doctor who treats patients, as opposed to one who only does research, is called a clinician. A doctor who provides primary care for patients is known as a general practitioner (GP), or family doctor. GPs usually work in a group practice. Larger group practices work in a building called a health center.

## Specialties

Specialist doctors, for example pediatricians, generally work in hospitals.

The two main branches of medicine are surgery and internal medicine, and the doctors who practice these branches are called surgeons and physicians, respectively.

A cardiologist specializes in/is a specialist in diseases of the heart and circulation, or cardiology.

A geriatrician specializes in/is a specialist in diseases of elderly patients, or geriatrics.

An anesthetist specializes in/is a specialist in anesthetics.

Names of specialties usually end in **ology**; names of specialists usually end in **ologist**. If the name of a specialty ends in **ics**, the name of the specialist ends in **ician**. There are some exceptions, e.g. anesthetics and anesthetist.

## Make sentences to describe the work of the specialist in each branch of medicine.

- Dermatology
- Rheumatology
- Traumatology
- Pediatrics
- Obstetrics

Think of prepositions that can be used to make word combinations with the words in the box. Then use the correct forms of the words to complete the sentences.

Good	Interested	Specialize	Work
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A pathologist \_\_\_\_\_ diagnosing disease through examining cells and tissue.

A pediatrician must enjoy \_\_\_\_\_ children.

An oncologist is \_\_\_\_\_ the diagnosis and treatment of cancer.

A psychiatrist must be \_\_\_\_\_ counseling.

A neurosurgeon must be \_\_\_\_\_ her hands.

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### Choosing a specialty

Jill Matthews has just graduated from medical school and is talking about her future.

I haven't decided what to **specialize in** yet. I need more experience before I decide, but I'm quite attracted to the idea of pediatrics because I like **working with** children than, say, elderly patients – so I don't fancy geriatrics. I was never very **interested in** detailed anatomy, so the surgical specialties like neurosurgery don't really appeal. You have to be **good with** your hands, which I don't think is a problem for me – I've **assisted at** operations several times, and I've never done some minor ops by myself – but surgeons have to be able to do the same thing again and again without getting bored, like trying off cut arteries and so on. I don't think that would be a problem for me, but they need to make decisions fast and I'm not too **good at** that. I like to have time to think, which means surgery's probably not right for me.

The collocation good with is followed by a noun (He's good with children). The collocation good at is followed by the **ing** form (gerund) of a verb, or by a noun (She's good at explaining procedures/ She's good at explanations).

### Express your idea

- Read what Dr. Jill Matthews says about surgeons. Make a list of the qualities she thinks are needed to be a good surgeon. Then make a similar list of qualities for another specialty.
- If you are a student, which branch of medicine do you think you have the qualities for? If you have already completed your training, why did you choose your particular branch of medicine?