



# Who we are: Specialty and Specialist [SAS] Doctors & Dentists

This information is for patients, carers, families and the public

## Who are SAS doctors?

There are several types of doctors in the UK – Consultants, GPs, SAS doctors, doctors in specialty training programmes, and doctors employed by hospitals on temporary contracts.

SAS stands for Specialty and Specialist doctors and dentists. It also includes Associate Specialist doctors. They are a group of competent and dedicated doctors, who may work independently or as a part of a team along with consultants. They have varying levels of experience and keep themselves updated in their respective areas of practice, as required by regulatory bodies.

Around 1 in 5 of all doctors who work in hospitals are SAS doctors. There are SAS doctors in every area of medicine and dentistry, and they make a valuable contribution to patient care in the NHS.

Specialty doctors must have worked for a minimum of 4 years after qualification but may have many more years' experience.

Associate Specialist doctors and Specialist doctors are senior SAS doctors and must have worked for at least 10 or 12 years after qualification. Most have many more years' experience.

All senior SAS doctors (including Specialty, Associate Specialist, and Specialist doctors), like consultants, work independently without supervision.

## What do SAS doctors do in Hospitals?

SAS Doctors work in all hospital specialties and departments. Working with other medical professionals and nurses, they contribute to the provision of outpatient, inpatient and specialist medical, dental, and surgical care. They also work in the community. It is likely that you or a relative will have been cared for by a SAS doctor.

SAS doctors make valuable contributions in all aspects of patient care. They can also take up a variety of non-clinical roles and responsibilities, such as appraisers, educators, trainers, and managers within the NHS.

## Why choose to be a SAS doctor?

There are many reasons to become a SAS doctor. For some, it provides a good work-life balance. For others, it means they can work in one healthcare setting [e.g. hospital] in a permanent post, working in a specialty of their choice.

