



Staff, Associate Specialists and Specialty doctors (SAS)

SAS doctors are a group of doctors working in dermatology in the NHS who are not consultants or trainees. These doctors include:

- specialty doctors
- associate specialists
- staff grades
- a number of other career grades such as: hospital practitioners, clinical assistants, senior clinical medical officers and clinical medical officers.

This group of staff is referred to as the Staff, Associate specialists and Specialty doctors (SAS) group. Since 2008 all the above grades have been replaced by the **Specialty Doctor** grade.

The specialty doctor posts offer settled, permanent employment within the hospital based dermatology service. They have agreed work commitments and clinical responsibilities and may be full-time or part-time.

The associate specialist grade is now closed to new entrants, although doctors on the old Associate Specialist contract can elect to transfer to the 2008 AS terms and conditions.

The specialty doctor posts are doctors committed to a career in the hospital service for a number of reasons such as family commitments or career outside medicine, those who have been unable to complete Higher Medical Training or do not want the full load of a Consultant post. SAS doctors will have full registration with four years of post graduate training, two of which are in dermatology.

SAS doctors work in partnership with dermatology consultants and other medical staff and play an important role in NHS service delivery. They make significant contributions to the advancement of dermatology and also are actively involved in areas of education, leadership, research and governance.

They are fully engaged with medical revalidation, appraisal and job planning. They are committed to Continuing Professional Development (CPD), and ensure they are maintaining and developing their knowledge and skills.

Career Progression for SAS doctors

The specialty doctor grade has career progression to the top of the grade providing an opportunity to gain valuable experience and develop their skills.

Getting into specialty training

SAS post can be an opportunity to work and gain experience in the chosen specialty before getting into higher training.

CESR (Certificate of Eligibility for Specialist Registration)

SAS doctors, who have achieved an equivalent level of knowledge, skills and competencies as Certificate of Completion of Training (CCT) holders, can apply to the GMC for a Certificate of Eligibility for Specialist Registration (CESR). Doctors who are successful in obtaining CESR, also qualify for entry onto the Specialist Register of the GMC. As the dermatologists with CCT, they are then eligible for appointment to a consultant post in dermatology.