As a cardiologist, you'll specialise in diagnosing, treating and preventing diseases that mainly affect the heart and blood vessels. Some of the conditions you'll encounter include arrhythmia, angina, high blood pressure, heart disease, heart failure, cardiac arrest and coronary heart disease.

You'll typically either treat ongoing, long-term illnesses, or respond to emergency, potentially life-threatening situations. You may also be involved in end-of-life palliative care due to heart disease.

Cardiologists treat adult patients only - paediatric cardiology is a separate specialty.

## Responsibilities

As a cardiologist, you can expect to:

* treat patients by reviewing and understanding their medical backgrounds and examining them to assess their current condition and health
* look at and employ ways of preventing, diagnosing and treating a range of heart-related problems
* carry out tests such as echocardiograms and interpret test results to measure how effectively the heart is working, which will help you to decide on the best method of treatment
* perform specialist procedures, such as coronary angiography, to help treat cardiac diseases
* prescribe medication to patients to help treat a range of cardiac illnesses
* provide ongoing support and advice to patients under long-term care
* work effectively in a multidisciplinary team, collaborating and liaising closely with colleagues
* provide support and advice to colleagues working in other specialities
* practise governance and audits within your department
* attend clinical management meetings
* complete administration, which can include anything from accurately recording patient interventions and referrals to overseeing budgetary information
* teach and provide educational support and training for junior staff
* carry out clinical research in your area of interest
* be at the forefront of trialling breakthrough treatments and medication developed by pioneering research.

## Skills

You'll need to be:

* able to make quick decisions and remain calm in stressful situations
* focused on attention to detail in mentally complex situations
* comfortable working in a fast-paced and pressurised environment
* a good problem solver with an analytical mind
* an excellent communicator who is able to understand and empathise with patients and colleagues
* confident in your skills, knowledge and ability
* assertive and a good motivator and leader
* an excellent team worker
* persistent in the face of challenges
* emotionally resilient when working in challenging situations.