A neurologist is a doctor who is involved with the management of conditions affecting the brain and nervous system.

The brain and spinal cord make up the central nervous system, which is connected to the rest of the body by a network of motor, sensory and autonomic nerves.

A wide range of diseases are treated by neurologists, such as:

* stroke
* multiple sclerosis
* headaches
* Parkinson's disease
* Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia
* motor neuron disease
* epilepsy
* spinal cord diseases
* muscle diseases like muscular dystrophy
* infections affecting the nervous system
* brain tumours (where surgery is required, the patient will be referred to a neurosurgeon).

## Responsibilities

As a neurologist, you'll need to:

* diagnose complex neurological problems by listening to the patient's history, as well as by examining them and using specific neurological tests
* run outpatient clinics, where you’ll mainly see patients with a chronic condition, i.e. a disease that takes a long time to develop such as Parkinson's and multiple sclerosis, or diagnose rare diseases
* complete ward rounds where you'll look after a caseload of inpatients
* treat acute conditions, i.e. those that come on suddenly, such as stroke
* offer specialist expertise and guidance to other doctors and staff from a range of medical specialties
* spend approximately half a day a week in academic meetings with neurosurgeons, neuroradiologists and other neurological colleagues for learning and development and to discuss cases as a team, drawing on the expertise of all these specialists
* liaise with other medical and non-medical staff in hospital settings to ensure all of the patients' needs are met
* keep up your knowledge of the latest treatments for neurological disorders, which have vastly increased over the past decade
* carry out teaching of junior staff, audits of practice and research.