

# HOW TO BECOME A SURGEON

**Congrats!** You want to join the one of the most highly respected professions in the NHS. With this fact sheet we are going to get rid of the Grey's Anatomy and House myths with some good honest advice about how you can get into this career.



## What does a surgeon actually do?

If you watch a lot of Holby City or Casualty you may have certain ideas about what a surgeon does. In reality it's nowhere near as exciting! Yes they do operate on people and perform complex medical procedures, but they also:

- Go on ward rounds to see their patients
- Run outpatient clinics; meeting patients to discuss treatment options and after the operation, supporting them in their recovery
- They complete tests to check a patient does genuinely need surgery
- Complete a LOT of paperwork, accurate records are essential in surgery
- Liaise with other doctors, nurse and the healthcare team
- Teaching, surgery is a specialist skill so every surgeon has to teach the next generation

## What type of surgeon could I be?

There are 10 different specialisms within Surgery. Take a look:

1. **General Surgery** – emergency situations and abdominal
2. **Cardiothoracic** – heart and lungs
3. **Neurosurgery** – brain, central nervous system and spinal chord
4. **Otorhinolaryngology** – ear, throat and nose
5. **Paediatric** – children
6. **Plastic surgery** – reconstructive
7. **Trauma and orthopaedic** – bones and joints
8. **Urology** – kidneys, bladder and prostate
9. **Oral and maxillofacial surgery** – face and mouth
10. **Vascular** – veins and arteries