

Alternative Careers for Doctors

Doctors have tremendous skills employers value and which may be relevant in writing, research, consultancy and the broader health sector. There are all sorts of things doctors can do which have a medical or health service focus, and where a medical qualification is highly valued. Many employers in the open market are seeking candidates with these valuable skills and experience – scientific and clinical knowledge and skills, experience in medical environments, time management, prioritisation of resources, making difficult decisions under pressure and working in teams.

Career change can be about opportunity rather than disillusionment. The range of potentially appealing alternatives has become wide.

Non-clinical roles include:

- Medical Advisor/Consultant in industry – Healthcare consulting includes public sector consulting, private hospitals, various corporate entities including:
 - Insurance
 - Medical devices
 - Medico-legal
 - Pharmaceutical industry – advisory & research
 - Medical technology, e-health, informatics, digital health
 - Other healthcare product suppliers
 - Healthcare facilities
 - Health & safety agencies
 - Entertainment (dance, film)
- Medical research
- Education
 - University based lecturer/educator
 - Prevocational training providers, eg HETI
 - Specialty training colleges
- Medical writing (many are freelance)
- Start-ups & Entrepreneurial enterprises
- Medical recruitment
- Biochemistry
- Environmental health
- Occupational Medicine
- Aviation Medicine
- Screening
- Veterans' Affairs
- Community Health – public health network
- Strategic work in public health
- Patient advocacy
- Charities
- Complementary/alternative medicine
- Medical Journalist/Media Medic - print, broadcast or web-based
- Physician Assistant

- Medical Education
- Medical Administration
- Boards
- Adventure & Travel Medicine - Cruise ships, Expeditions
- Medical services - pathology, radiology, and assisted reproductive technologies
- Other health services such as pharmacy, physiotherapy, chiropractic/podiatry, psychology, hypnotherapy, audiology, orthoptics, dietetics

If you are seeking a change to your career, consider moving into other clinical and non-clinical roles while reducing clinical load – this will allow you to maintain your recency of practice.

In doing this, you may find that a blend, or portfolio, of professional roles suits you well. Many doctors do carry out a variety of roles on a regular basis, e.g. GP, medical advisor for pharma, lecturer, board member.

Contact the AMA (NSW) Career Service for further information and/or support:

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