

Physicians are a critical component to meet the mission of the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

This document provides answers to frequently asked questions in the following areas: Physician position descriptions, position requirements, compensation, and application requirements.

Physician Position Descriptions

1. Which is the right position announcement for me?

At NIH, the Physician position announcement encompasses a wide variety of activities. The [NIH Physician video](#) gives a quick position overview. The announcement covers the following positions:

- **Intramural Clinical Physician.** Responsible to conduct research on the NIH campus to treat medical conditions that are exceptionally difficult to diagnose and includes patient care components.
- **Extramural Clinical Physician.** Responsible for providing specialized medical expertise in applied and/or basic research conducted on the NIH's campus.
- **Extramural Research Physician.** Responsible for research conducted by other organizations and funded in part by NIH grant money. Portfolio will include clinical human trials or clinical days. Uses medical expertise to administer extramural research grants or contracts, evaluate activities of funded investigators, and make recommendations on the contribution of research to the program's goals and objectives.

Position Title	Patient Care	Pay Plan*	Medical License
Intramural Clinical Physician	Direct patient care	GP 14-15	Required
Extramural Clinical Physician	Indirect patient care	GP 14-15	Required
Extramural Research Physician	No patient care	GS 13-15	Not Required

* Learn more about pay plans on the Office of Personnel Management [Pay and Leave](#) page.

Position Requirements

2. What are the degree requirements for NIH Physicians?

To be a Physician at NIH you must have either a M.D. or D.O. degree from a school in the United States or Canada approved by a recognized accrediting body in the year of the applicant's graduation.

If you have a foreign degree, you must be certified by the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG), or a fifth pathway certificate for Americans who completed premedical education in the United States and graduate education in a foreign country and provide evidence of permanent certification with your application.

3. Do I have to hold a current license to practice medicine in the U.S. to be a Physician at NIH?

- Intramural Physician announcements: Yes. You are required to hold a current, valid medical license from any of the 50 states, Puerto Rico, or U.S. territory.
- Extramural Physicians: No.

4. Do I have to be board-certified or board-eligible to be a Physician at NIH?

Some Physician announcements require board certification. Read the announcement carefully to

determine the requirements for each particular vacancy, but Global recruitments generally do not have board-certification or board-eligibility requirements.

5. Do I have to be a U.S. citizen to serve as a Physician at NIH?

Yes. Physician positions are only open to U.S. citizens.

Physician Compensation

6. How are Physicians compensated?

Physicians are compensated according to their qualifications and years of professional experience. Pay ranges are listed on the vacancy announcements.

Application Process

7. How do I apply?

You must apply using the website USAJobs.gov. Complete the application by uploading all required documents and answering any questions before the close of the announcement period. USAJobs is the U.S. government's official one-stop source for federal jobs and employment information.

8. What should I do if my application status in USAJobs is “incomplete”?

The USAJobs system requires all uploaded documents to pass through security scans to protect against computer virus. Your application status may be recorded as “Incomplete” pending the completion of the scan which can take up to 24 hours. If, after 24 hours, your application is still showing as “Incomplete,” you may contact the responsible HR Specialist listed at the bottom of the USAJOBS announcement.

9. May I specify the area I am interested in working in?

Yes. The application process will allow you to identify your area of medical expertise as well as specific areas of interest. If you wish to note interest in a particular NIH institute or research area, you may submit a cover letter alongside your resume/CV.

10. How can I tailor my resume/CV for this application?

The Human Resource (HR) Specialist will identify your skills and experience as stated in your resume/CV to match with the qualification standards listed for the position, and align your knowledge and experience to the requirements for the position.

For optimal results, provide your clinical research experience, grants received, publications, and presentations. Showcase your national and/or international work related to your field and provide residency and educational information with complete dates. It is important to detail the duties, tasks, and assignments you performed in each position held.

Your resume/CV is the application, so provide enough information for the HR Specialist to determine your qualifications.

Important Link

11. [Federal Resume Tips](#)

12. [OPM Qualification Standards](#)