

Hematologist

The blood doctor. Leukemia, clots, anemia and transfusions, five years of residency after medical school, often a salaried job in a cancer centre.

TYPICAL PAY

\$370,000

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$280k to \$480k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

11 to 13 years

after high school

DEMAND

Very high

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

Yes

regulated job

WHERE YOU WORK

Cancer centres, hospital wards, blood clinics, laboratories

How you get there

- 1 High school** Grades 11 and 12
Top marks in biology, chemistry, math and English. You need a very high average for a science undergrad.
- 2 Bachelor's degree** 3 to 4 years
Any major works. Keep a GPA (grade point average) above 3.8, volunteer, do research. Write the MCAT (medical school admission test).
- 3 Medical school, the MD (doctor of medicine)** 3 to 4 years
Acceptance rates are 5% to 15%. Classes, then clinical rotations.
- 4 Internal medicine residency** 3 years
Matched through CaRMS (the residency matching service). Hospital wards, the ICU (intensive care unit) and clinics. In year 3 you apply to the subspecialty match.
- 5 Hematology residency, then certification** 2 years
Leukemia and lymphoma wards, clotting and bleeding clinics, the blood bank, and reading blood and bone marrow under the microscope. Pass the Royal College exams to become FRCPC (Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of Canada) and register with your provincial Co...

Pros and cons

- + Salaried jobs with pensions are common
- + Blood cancers are among the most curable cancers, and you see the cures
- + A rare mix of lab work, microscope and patient care
- Thirteen years of training
- Some patients are young and some die despite everything
- Leukemia call is heavy: fevers in patients with no immune system are emergencies

Optional boosts

Malignant hematology. Benign hematology. Transfusion medicine. Stem cell transplant.

Good to know

Thousands of new leukemia cases a year

The Canadian Cancer Society projects about 6,500 people in Canada will be diagnosed with leukemia in 2026. Add lymphoma and myeloma, and blood cancers are one of the most common groups of cancer he...

Canada needs a million new blood donors

Canadian Blood Services says it needs 1 million new donors by 2030 to keep hospitals supplied. Hematologists in transfusion medicine decide how that blood gets used, and what to do when the shelf runs...

Where these numbers come from

Job Bank: Hematologist, wages (updated Nov 2025)
Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada
CIHI: A profile of physicians in Canada, 2024 (payments)
Canadian Cancer Society: Leukemia statistics

Numbers checked September 2026. Pay figures are typical full-time annual amounts in Canadian dollars, based on Government of Canada Job Bank wage data and published salary grids. They vary by province, employer and experience. Tuition is for domestic students. Sources, links and the click-through version: <https://career.help/ca/careers/hematologist>



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