

# FAQs about careers in operating department practice

This page has some frequently asked questions about careers in operating department practice

- What areas can operating department practitioners (ODPs) work in?
- What is the difference between an ODP and a theatre nurse?
- Where can I find more information about working as an ODP?

## What areas can operating department practitioners (ODPs) work in?

ODPs work mainly in operating theatres as part of a team that includes surgeons [1], anaesthetists [2], theatre nurses [3], healthcare assistants [4], theatre support staff [5] and porters [6]. Increasingly, you'll find ODPs working in other critical care areas of hospitals too.

## What is the difference between an ODP and a theatre nurse?

The way that you train is different for an ODP compared with that of a theatre nurse, but opportunities to develop your career in the theatre environment are virtually identical.

Find out more about the work of ODPs [7]

Find out more about the work of theatre nurses [3]

## Where can I find more information about working as an ODP?

There's more information about working and training to become an operating department practitioner on our explore roles pages [8].

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### Links

[1] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/surgery>

[2] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/anaesthesia>

[3] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/nursing/theatre-nurse>

[4] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/clinical-support-staff/healthcare-assistant>

[5] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/clinical-support-staff/theatre-support-worker>

[6] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/support-services/porter>

[7] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/operating-department-practice/operating-department->

practitioner

[8] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/operating-department-practice>