

Donor carer

Our donor carers are the frontline of blood donation services. They are the first point of contact for our blood donors and care for them while they give blood.

Working life

NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT) collect just over 1.6 million donations of blood and blood products throughout England each year. The NHS relies on members of the public (donors) giving voluntary donations of blood and blood products. These are stored and given to patients when needed, for example, during surgery or after an accident.

As a donor carer, you'll enjoy plenty of variety including caring for donors through the blood donation process, driving NHSBT equipment vehicles, loading/unloading and assembling mobile donation equipment.

Donor carer with volunteer donating blood

You don't need a healthcare background or any qualifications as you'll be trained in a variety of roles to undertake the blood donation process, including:

- welcoming donors
- assessing if someone can safely give blood
- assisting with screening of donors by asking questions about their health
- performing venepuncture (using needles to take blood)
- monitoring the donation whilst caring for the donor
- updating records and giving basic clinical advice and aftercare
- providing refreshments and overseeing donor recovery
- thanking donors and encouraging them to make an appointment to return

Naturally, you'll need to be comfortable with handling bags of donated blood.

Customer care is an important part of the job.

Customer care is an important part of the job. It's your passion for people and reassuring nature that's important and will encourage donors to return and bring family and friends along to donate.

Some donor carers work in the fixed donor centre sites. These are purpose built locations open most days of the week. Donor carers working at these sites are not required to drive NHSBT equipment vehicles. Some donor carers, however, work in mobile teams going out into the community to a different location each day.

Entry requirements

There are no set entry requirements or formal qualifications to becoming a donor carer. However, you will need a good grasp of literacy and numeracy. If the role is for a mobile team you will also need to possess a full UK driving licence, although you will be trained to drive larger NHSBT vehicles and if necessary support in obtaining the additional category to drive large vehicles on your licence.

Donor carers may enter through a health and social care (care pathway) apprenticeship at level 2 or 3. Apprenticeships whilst undertaking this role are available.

NHSBT provide comprehensive training to undertake the donor carer role, so you don't need a background in healthcare for this role.

Skills and personal characteristics needed

As a donor carer, you'll need to interact with lots of people, so you will need to be friendly and confident with good customer care skills. You will also need the ability to work within a team and have excellent communication skills.

You'll need to carefully follow the written procedures required to collect blood safely, so an eye for detail is key. Confidence working with computers and other digital devices is also important. You will also need to be physically fit to be able to carry and set up the donation equipment.

Training and development

You will be given training in the role of donor carer so that you can perform the role with confidence. You will obtain nationally recognised certification for the skills you learn while you are with NHSBT.

- **Pay and conditions**

Donor carers work standard hours of around 37.5 a week. Some may work evenings and weekends. You'll move around between locations to collect blood, as part of a team. In the NHS, you'll typically be on [Agenda for Change \(AfC\)](#) ^[1] band 3.

- **Where the role can lead**

With experience, you could become a donor care supervisor, overseeing the work of donor carers, organising rotas, etc. You could then become a manager, responsible for donor sessions and staff across an area.

You may be able to move into other wider health care roles such as [clerk](#) [2], [health records staff](#) [3] or [healthcare assistant](#) [4]. You could apply to train for other roles including [assistant practitioner](#) [5] or [nurse](#) [6].

• Job market and vacancies

If you're applying for a role either directly in the NHS or in an organisation that provides NHS services, you'll be asked to show how you think the NHS values apply in your everyday work. [Find out more about NHS values](#) [7].

Most NHS organisations advertise their vacancies on [NHS Jobs](#) [8]. You can find some of the current vacancies below.

Find a vacancy

Enter your location or postcode

Show results within

Search

○ Donor Carer - Blood Donation

Eturia, Stoke on Trent, ST1 4BT

Salary:

£24625.00 to £25674.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

NHS Blood and Transplant

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Donor Carer - Blood Donation job \(opens in a new window\)](#) [9]

○ Specialist Nurse - Stem Cell Donor Registry (BBMR)

Filton, BS34 7QH

Salary:

£46148.00 to £52809.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

NHS Blood and Transplant

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Specialist Nurse - Stem Cell Donor Registry \(BBMR\) job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[10]

- **Night Senior Carer**

Mollington, CH1 6NP

Salary:

£13.77

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Barchester Healthcare

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Night Senior Carer job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[11]

- **Night Senior Carer**

Falmouth, TR11 2EW

Salary:

£15.18

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Barchester Healthcare

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Night Senior Carer job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[12]

- **Night Senior Carer**

Tewkesbury, GL20 6HP

Salary:

£14.60

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Barchester Healthcare

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Night Senior Carer job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[13]

- **Community Carer - Surrey**

Chertsey, KT16 8LA

Salary:

£23100.00 to £24675.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

HCRG Care Group

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Community Carer - Surrey job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[14]

- **Night Senior Carer**

Much Wenlock, TF13 6AT

Salary:

£13.32

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Barchester Healthcare

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Night Senior Carer job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[15]

- **Night Senior Carer**

Hayling Island, PO11 9JZ

Salary:

£14.65

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Barchester Healthcare

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Night Senior Carer job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[16]

- **Night Senior Carer**

Fareham, PO15 5NT

Salary:

£14.77

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Barchester Healthcare

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Night Senior Carer job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[17]

- **Night Senior Carer**

Grovesend, SA4 4JW

Salary:

£15.39

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Barchester Healthcare

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Night Senior Carer job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[18]

- **Night Senior Carer**

Rayleigh, SS6 9XH

Salary:

£15.23

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Barchester Healthcare

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Night Senior Carer job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[19]

- **Consultant Haematologist with an interest in Donor Medicine**

Pontyclun, CF72 9WB

Salary:

£106000.00 to £154760.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Welsh Blood Service

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Haematologist with an interest in Donor Medicine job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[20]

- **Carer Peer Support Specialist**

Eastbourne, BN21 2UD

Salary:

£26530.00 to £29114.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Carer Peer Support Specialist job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[21]

- **Bank Community Carer - Surrey**

Chertsey, KT16 8LA

Salary:

£13.17 to £13.17

Type:

Bank

Employer:

HCRG Care Group

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Bank Community Carer - Surrey job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[22]

- **Senior Community Carer - Surrey**

Chertsey, KT16 8LA

Salary:

£25200.00 to £27825.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

HCRG Care Group

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Senior Community Carer - Surrey job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[23]

- **Senior Carer - Residential Care Home**

Norwich, NR13 6PD

Salary:

£13.70

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Barchester Healthcare

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Senior Carer - Residential Care Home job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[24]

- **Senior Carer - Residential Care Home**

Woking, GU23 7DJ

Salary:

£15.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Barchester Healthcare

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Senior Carer - Residential Care Home job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[25]

- **Senior Carer - Residential Care Home**

Denmead, PO7 6XP

Salary:

£14.99

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Barchester Healthcare

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Senior Carer - Residential Care Home job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[26]

- **Bank Senior Community Carer - Surrey**

Chertsey, KT16 8LA

Salary:

£14.93 to £14.93

Type:

Bank

Employer:

HCRG Care Group

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Bank Senior Community Carer - Surrey job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[27]

- **Senior Carer - Residential Care Home**

Melbourn, SG8 6FY

Salary:

£14.99

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Barchester Healthcare

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Senior Carer - Residential Care Home job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[28]

- **Senior Carer - Residential Care Home - Bank**

Fareham, PO15 5FF

Salary:

£15.89

Type:

Bank

Employer:

Barchester Healthcare

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Senior Carer - Residential Care Home - Bank job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[29]

- **Senior Night Carer - Residential Care Home**

READING, RG31 5UG

Salary:

£15.50

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Barchester Healthcare

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Senior Night Carer - Residential Care Home job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[30]

- **Senior Night Carer - Residential Care Home**

Ferndown, BH22 9EU

Salary:

£16.34

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Barchester Healthcare

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Senior Night Carer - Residential Care Home job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[31]

- **Senior Carer - Residential Care Home - Bank**

Fareham, PO15 5NT

Salary:

£16.55

Type:

Bank

Employer:

Barchester Healthcare

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Senior Carer - Residential Care Home - Bank job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[32]

- **Senior Night Carer - Residential Care Home**

Wells, BA5 1WE

Salary:

£15.44

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Barchester Healthcare

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Senior Night Carer - Residential Care Home job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[33]

- **Senior Carer - Residential Care Home - Bank**

Horndean, PO8 0AJ

Salary:

£17.93

Type:

Bank

Employer:

Barchester Healthcare

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Senior Carer - Residential Care Home - Bank job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[34]

- **Senior Carer - Residential Care Home - Bank**

Church Stretton, SY6 7AA

Salary:

£16.87

Type:

Bank

Employer:

Barchester Healthcare

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Senior Carer - Residential Care Home - Bank job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[35]

- **Senior Night Carer - Residential Care Home**

Woking, GU23 7DJ

Salary:

£15.50

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Barchester Healthcare

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Senior Night Carer - Residential Care Home job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[36]

- **Further information**

- [NHS Blood and Transplant](#) ^[37]

Other roles that may interest you

- [Phlebotomist](#) ^[38]
- [Haematology \(doctor\)](#) ^[39]

- Haematology (healthcare scientist) [40]
- Blood sciences [41]

Source URL:<https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/wider-healthcare-team/roles-wider-healthcare-team/clinical-support-staff/donor-carer>

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