

Returning to the allied health professions

You've got the skills and experience to make a big difference to people's lives. We're here to help make getting back to the career you love as simple as possible.



Here's what you'll need to do

If you've been out of practice more than 2 years, you'll need to spend a little time updating your knowledge and skills. You can do this through:

- Private study, using resources such as websites, library books or journals.
- Supervised hours with a registered professional.
- Formal study, such as e-learning or any other type of relevant course.

You'll also need to make sure you're registered with the [Health and Care Professions Council \(HCPC\)](#) ^[1].

0-2 years out of practice

There's no need to update your knowledge and skills. As long as you're registered with the [HCPC](#) ^[2] you can apply for a job straight away.

2-5 years out of practice

You'll need to spend 30 days (or 210 hours) updating your knowledge and skills (private study can't account for more than 50% of your time). You'll then need to re-register with the [HCPC](#) ^[2].

5+ years out of practice

You'll need to spend 60 days (or 420 hours) updating your knowledge and skills (private study can't account for more than 50% of your time). You'll then need to re-register with the [HCPC](#) ^[2].

Supporting your return

There are several universities and NHS organisations that can help you gain the skills and knowledge you need to return to practice.

NHS England can also help you cover the cost of certain expenses and courses, put you in touch with employers offering help as well as giving you help and support along the way. You can get in touch with the NHS England Return to Practice programme team [via email](#). [3]

- **Find your professional body**

You can find more information about registering and returning to your individual profession through your professional body.

Art therapist

[The British Association of Art Therapists](#) [4]

[The British Association of Drama Therapists](#) [5]

[The British Association for Music Therapy](#) [6]

Chiropodist/podiatrist

[British Chiropody and Podiatry Association](#) [7]

[The Institute of Chiropodists and Podiatrists](#) [8]

[The Royal College of Podiatry](#) [9]

Dietitian

[The Association of UK Dietitians](#) [10]

Occupational therapist

[Royal College of Occupational Therapists](#) [11]

Operating department practitioner

[College of Operating Department Practitioners](#) [12]

[Association for Perioperative Practice](#) [13]

Orthoptist

[British and Irish Orthoptic Society](#) [14]

Paramedic

College of Paramedics [15]

Physiotherapist

Chartered Society of Physiotherapy [16]

Prosthetist/orthotist

The British Association of Prosthetists and Orthotists [17]

Radiographer

Society of Radiographers [18]

Speech and language therapist

Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists [19]

You can also learn more at on the HCPC website [20]. Make sure you have your registration number (or the surname you registered with) to hand.

Source URL:<https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/allied-health-professionals/returning-allied-health-professions>

Links

[1] <http://Links> to <https://www.hcpc-uk.org/registration/returning-to-practice/> [2]
<https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#HCPC> [3] <mailto:england.r2pahp-hcs@nhs.net> [4]
<http://www.baat.org/> [5] <http://badth.org.uk/> [6] <http://www.bamt.org/> [7] <https://bcha-uk.org/> [8]
<https://iocp.org.uk/> [9] <https://cop.org.uk/> [10] <https://www.bda.uk.com/practice-and-education/education/returning-to-practice.html> [11] <https://www.cot.co.uk/> [12]
<https://codp.org.uk/page/home> [13] <https://www.afpp.org.uk/home> [14] <https://www.orthoptics.org.uk/> [15]
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<https://www.sor.org/> [19] <https://www.rcslt.org/> [20] <https://www.hcpc-uk.org/registration/returning-to-practice/>