

Compare roles in health

Not sure where to start with the hundreds of NHS careers? Use our compare roles section to get bite-size information on the entry requirements and training, pay and conditions, prospects and skills needed of up to three roles. If there is something that you think you could do, then get more in-depth information on the role.

Don't forget, you can also save your role comparisons by registering with us.

• Anaesthesia associate ^[1]

Becoming an anaesthesia associate offers the chance to use your passion for, and skills in science. You'll look after patients at every stage on their surgical journey working as part of the anaesthesia and wider surgical team. You'll have a positive impact on a patient's care while being a supportive and welcome addition to the team.

Training and qualifications required

You'll either need to be a registered and experienced health care professional or a graduate with a relevant degree with a commitment to healthcare, to take the Postgraduate Diploma in Physicians Assistant (anaesthesia) studies.

Expected working hours and salary range

Staff in the NHS will usually work a standard 37.5 hours per week. They may work a shift pattern. Most jobs in the NHS are covered by the Agenda for Change (AfC) pay scales. This pay system covers all staff except doctors, dentists and the most senior managers. Terms and conditions of service can vary for employers outside the NHS.

Desirable skills and values

An interest in science, attention to detail; good communication skills; an effective team member; good organisational skills and the ability to remain calm under pressure.

Prospects

With further training and/or experience, you may be able to develop your career further and apply for vacancies in areas such as further specialisation, management, research, or teaching.

Related roles

- Adult nurse ^[2]
- Emergency medicine ^[3]

- Operating department practitioner ^[4]
- Anaesthesia ^[5]

• Mental health and wellbeing practitioner ^[6]

Mental health and wellbeing practitioners (MHWPs) provide evidence-based interventions and co-ordinate care plans for adults with severe mental health problems.

Training and qualifications required

You will need the right aptitude to learn how to work collaboratively in a mental health team. You'll need to be able to demonstrate a willingness to work in a hopeful and productive way with adults with severe mental health problems. Being able to demonstrate your ability to study at degree level or above is important.

Expected working hours and salary range

While you train, you'll spend one day a week studying at university and three to four days working in or undertaking specific training tasks in a community mental health service. Once qualified, you'll spend at least 20 hours a week seeing patients. You'll be paid on Agenda for change band 4 while you train, moving to band 5 once you qualify.

Desirable skills and values

Most importantly you need a willingness to work in a hopeful and productive way with adults with severe mental health problems. You'll also have excellent interpersonal skills, be able to build trusting and productive relationships with a range of people, work well within a multidisciplinary team, and have a good understanding of mental health issues.

Prospects

You could move to a supervisory role, teach others or undertake further training in another psychological profession such as CBT therapy or clinical psychology.

Related roles

- Children's wellbeing practitioner ^[7]
- Psychological wellbeing practitioner ^[8]
- Support, time and recovery worker ^[9]
- Assistant psychologist ^[10]

• Experienced paramedic ^[11]

Once you have been working as a registered paramedic for two years, you can progress to roles that allow you to carry out more treatments, specialise in specific areas and take on more responsibility.

Training and qualifications required

For the more senior paramedic roles, you first have to work as a paramedic and be registered with the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC). You then take extra training for one of the roles for experienced paramedics. You may have to take a further qualification, depending on which qualifications you already hold.

Expected working hours and salary range

Most jobs in the NHS are covered by the Agenda for Change (AfC) pay scales and experienced paramedics usually start at band 6. This pay system covers all staff except doctors, dentists and the most senior managers. Although senior paramedics work standard hours of around 37.5 a week, these are often on a shift pattern. Shifts can cover 24 hours a day, 7 days a week throughout the year, so a paramedic's work pattern may include, evenings, nights, early starts, weekends and bank holidays.

Desirable skills and values

Experienced paramedics need to be calm in stressful situations, resilient in dealing with other people's strong emotions, able to work quickly and carefully, have good communication skills, excellent driving skills and be able to use equipment and machinery.

Prospects

With experience, you could become a team leader, supervising the work of paramedics and emergency care assistants. You could become a manager, responsible for several teams. In some ambulance trusts you could progress to consultant paramedic, advising on and developing the clinical practice in that service. Teaching or research are other options. Some experienced paramedics choose to join a specialist team such as caring for stroke patients or working on an air ambulance.

Related roles

- [Call handler/emergency medical dispatcher](#) ^[12]
- [Emergency care assistant](#) ^[13]
- [Paramedic](#) ^[14]
- [Patient Transport Service \(PTS\) call handler](#) ^[15]

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