

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.

- **Clinical oncology** ^[1]

A clinical oncologist is a doctor who uses [chemotherapy](#) ^[2], [radiotherapy](#) ^[3] and a range of other treatments to care for patients with cancer.

Training and qualifications required

Training usually starts with a five year first degree in medicine, two years foundation doctor training, two years core training (CT1-2), followed by five years specialists training (ST3-7). This period of training will include your royal college exams. Length of training can vary according to your circumstances

Expected working hours and salary range

Doctors may work up to 48 hours a week. The working hours may sometimes extend beyond the normal working day to include early mornings, evenings, weekends and on call. The basic salary ranges from £29,384 to £34,012. Once you start your specialty training as a clinical oncologist employed by the NHS, you can expect to earn a salary of at least £40,257, which can increase to between £84,559 and £114,003 as a consultant.

Desirable skills and values

For this role you'll have a high level of compassion, sensitivity and empathy to treat people with cancer. You'll need excellent communication skills to manage a wide range of relationships with colleagues, and patients and their families. You'll be emotionally resilient, have excellent problem-solving and diagnostic skills and work well in teams and under pressure. You'll also be very organised for the benefit of patients.

Prospects

In 2020, there were 170 applications for 49 places on specialty training for clinical oncology. You could specialise or conduct research in specific cancers, teach medical or postgraduate students, or get involved in research.

Related roles

- Haematology (doctor) [4]
- Medical oncology [5]
- General practitioner [6]
- Experienced paramedic [7]

• Clinical bioinformatics (health informatics) [8]

Bioinformatics (health informatics [9]) combines computing science with information science, biology and medicine.

Training and qualifications required

For the NHS Scientist Training Programme (STP) you'll need a 1st or 2.1 either in an undergraduate honours degree or an integrated master's degree in a pure or applied science subject relevant to the specialism for which you are applying. If you have a relevant 2.2 honours degree, you will also be considered if you have a higher degree in a subject relevant to the specialism for which you are applying. Evidence of research experience is considered desirable. Your degree should have strong links with software engineering, informatics, computer science, physics, engineering, mathematics or a related science degree with a software development component.

Expected working hours and salary range

NHS staff 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. Trainee clinical scientists train at band 6 level, and qualified clinical scientists are generally appointed at band 7. With experience and further qualifications, you could apply for posts up to band 9. Terms and conditions of service can vary for employers outside the NHS.

Desirable skills and values

Effective communication and team working skills, an interest in science and technology, comfortable using modern technology and complex equipment, meticulous attention to detail, good interpersonal skills.

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

- Clinical informatics [10]
- Knowledge and library services [11]
- Experienced paramedic [7]
- Emergency care assistant [12]

Links

[1] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/doctors/roles-doctors/clinical-oncology> [2]
<https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#Chemotherapy> [3]
<https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#Radiotherapy> [4] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/doctors/roles-doctors/pathology/haematology-doctor> [5] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/doctors/roles-doctors/medicine/medical-oncology> [6] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/doctors/roles-doctors/general-practitioner> [7] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/ambulance-service-team/roles-ambulance-service/experienced-paramedic> [8]
<https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/healthcare-science/roles-healthcare-science/clinical-bioinformatics/clinical-bioinformatics-health-informatics> [9]
<https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#Informatics> [10] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/explore-roles/health-informatics/health-informatics/roles-health-informatics/roles-health-informatics/clinical-informatics> [11] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/health-informatics/roles-health-informatics/knowledge-and-library-services> [12]
<https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/ambulance-service-team/roles-ambulance-service/emergency-care-assistant>