

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.

• Dental therapist ^[1]

A dental therapist does some of the more straightforward work undertaken by a dentist.

Training and qualifications required

To practise as a dental therapist, you must obtain a degree or diploma in dental therapy and be registered on the General Dental Council's (CDG) roll of dental therapists. To get on the course, you will need five GCSE subjects at grade A to C, plus two A-levels or a recognised qualification in dental nursing. You may also be required to have some experience of dental nursing before taking the course.

Expected working hours and salary range

Most dental therapists work standard NHS hours, which are likely to be around 37.5 a week. Your starting salary will be band 5 of the Agenda for Change pay rates.

Desirable skills and values

You will need to develop highly technical clinical skills. Dental therapists will often spend valuable time encouraging anxious patients to accept dental treatment which requires patience, and excellent communication and interpersonal skills.

Prospects

Dental therapists with experience can progress to become orthodontic therapists or practice managers, or move into research or teaching roles. If you work in a dentist's practice, you will be able to work independently without the full responsibility of running the practice.

Related roles

- Dental hygienist ^[2]
- Dental support worker ^[3]
- Dental nurse ^[4]
- Dental technician/dental technologist ^[5]

• **Forensic psychiatry** ^[6]

Forensic psychiatrists treat people with mental health problems who are in prison, a secure hospital or the wider community.

Training and qualifications required

You'll need to follow a set pattern of training which usually starts with a five year first degree in medicine and two years of foundation training, 3 years core training (CT1-3), followed by 3 years specialists training (ST4-6). This period of training will include completing your royal college exams. Length of training can vary according to your circumstances.

Expected working hours and salary range

Working hours should not exceed 48 hours a week. The working hours may sometimes extend beyond the normal working week 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 forensic psychiatrist 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

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

There are currently 333 consultant forensic psychiatrists working in the NHS in England. In 2020, there were 55 applications for 34 specialty training places. You could specialise in adolescent forensic psychiatry, forensic learning disability psychiatry, forensic psychotherapy, old-age forensic psychiatry and substance misuse. You'll also teach medical or postgraduate students.

Related roles

- **General practitioner** ^[7]
- **Neurologist** ^[8]
- **General psychiatry** ^[9]
- **Medical psychotherapy** ^[10]

• **Physiotherapist** ^[11]

You'll help people improve their mobility and regain their independence after an injury or operation, or as a result of ageing or a disability.

Training and qualifications required

You need to study for an approved degree level programme in physiotherapy - either through a full-time or part-time university degree or a degree apprenticeship in physiotherapy. There are also two-year accelerated MSc courses available to people who already have a BSc degree in a relevant subject. To get onto a physiotherapy degree course you usually need two or three A

levels (or equivalent qualifications), including a biological science and/or PE, along with five GCSEs (grades 9-4/A-C), including English language, maths and at least one science. You'll need similar level 3 qualifications to get onto a degree apprenticeship. Each university and employer sets its own entry requirements, so it's important to check carefully.

Expected working hours and salary range

Physiotherapists in the NHS work standard hours, which are likely to be around 37.5 a week. They may work shifts, including evenings, nights and weekends. They start at band 5 of the Agenda for Change pay scale. Elsewhere, a physiotherapist's hours will depend on where they work. For example, a sports physiotherapist is likely to work at weekends. In private practice, physiotherapists' hours depend on client needs. They may work evenings and weekends to suit private clients.

Desirable skills and values

Physiotherapists need to be happy to be hands-on with patients, good listeners, caring, able to motivate people and normally physically fit as the work can be strenuous. They also need good manual (hand) skills good organisation and communication skills and an ability to explain treatment to patients.

Prospects

You may choose to specialise in a particular area of practice such as sports injuries, critical care, care of the elderly or working with children or cancer patients. Teaching and research are also options. You could also move into management, either within physiotherapy services or general management. As head of a local physiotherapy service you would be responsible both for a team of staff and for managing a budget. Some physiotherapists set up their own clinics, on their own or with other professionals.

Related roles

- [Physiotherapy assistants/support workers](#) [12]
- [Occupational therapist](#) [13]
- [Osteopath](#) [14]
- [Occupational therapy support worker](#) [15]

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