

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.

• **Neurophysiology** ^[1]

Healthcare science staff working in neurophysiology investigate the function of the central and peripheral nervous system to diagnose and manage a range of neurological and non-neurological disorders.

Training and qualifications required

You could look for an entry level job/level 2 apprenticeship – typically GCSEs 9-4/A-C in maths, English and a science. To apply for an apprenticeship, you'll need 5 GCSEs at 9-4/A-C (or equivalent) including maths, English and science or Level 2 Diploma in Healthcare Science to start a level 4 apprenticeship. An associate practitioner role is another route to a career in biomedical science. You'll likely require foundation degree, or equivalent experience with training and experience to NVQ level 3. To start a level 6 apprenticeship or degree course, you'll need relevant level 3 qualifications, for example three A levels (including at least one science subject) or Access to higher education course.

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. As a healthcare science practitioner, you'd usually start on band 5, with opportunities to progress to more senior positions. 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

You'll need excellent communication skills to manage a wide range of relationships with colleagues, patients and their families. Emotional resilience, a calm temperament and the ability to work well under pressure are important, as well as teamwork and the capacity to lead multidisciplinary teams. You'll have good problem-solving and diagnostic skills, outstanding organisational ability and decision-making skills, first-class time management for the benefit of

patients.

Prospects

As you gain experience, and with further training, you'll be able to apply for vacancies in areas such as further specialisation, management, research and teaching.

Related roles

- [Neurologist](#) [2]
- [Neurosurgeon](#) [3]
- [Respiratory physiology and sleep sciences](#) [4]
- [Audiology](#) [5]

• [Metabolic Medicine](#) [6]

Doctors in [metabolic](#) [7] medicine treat patients whose chemical processes do not function properly and who may have various health problems as a result.

Training and qualifications required

Training usually starts with a five year first degree in medicine. Then there's two years foundation doctor training, two years core training (CT1-CT2), followed by five years specialist training (ST3-ST6). 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 and weekends. You'll first earn a salary when you start your foundation training after medical school. The basic salary ranges from £29,384 to £34,012. Once you start your specialty training as a doctor in metabolic medicine 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 will have a strong interest in biochemistry and metabolism. This will be aided by your ability to lead a team, whilst developing and evaluating services. Having excellent communication skills supports your excellent problem-solving and reasoning skills. You're familiarity with research methods and a willingness to keep up-to-date with research and advances in treatment is essential for your role.

Prospects

In 2016, there were 15 consultants in metabolic medicine in the NHS in England. In 2020, there were 23 applications for 12 training places. You could specialise or conduct research, teach medical students or postgraduate students in training or get involved in research at universities, the NHS or private sector.

Related roles

- [Chemical pathology](#) [8]
- [General internal medicine](#) [9]

- Immunology ^[10]
- Medical microbiology and virology (doctor) ^[11]

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