

## 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.

### • **Medical ophthalmology** <sup>[1]</sup>

Medical ophthalmologists (also known as ophthalmic physicians) are doctors who diagnose and treat medical eye conditions, many of which are related to diseases such as diabetes.

#### Training and qualifications required

Training usually starts with a five year first degree in medicine, two years foundation doctor training, then either two years core training (CT1-2 ) or two years Ophthalmic Specialty training followed by followed by five years specialist 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 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 medical ophthalmologist 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

In 2021, there were two consultants in medical ophthalmology working in the NHS in England. There is considerable growth of the specialty while opportunities exist for research and teaching. In 2021, there were 21 applications for four 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

- Ophthalmology [2]
- Neurologist [3]
- Endocrinology and diabetes [4]
- Infectious diseases [5]

## • District nurse [6]

District nurses make a difference everyday to the lives of the people they visit at home and in residential care homes. They provide increasingly complex care for patients and support for family members.

### Training and qualifications required

You need to be a registered adult, child, mental health or learning disability nurse to apply for a district nursing training programme. The programmes are known as specialist practitioner programmes, are at degree level and usually run over one academic year (32 weeks) full time or part-time equivalent. A level 7 apprenticeship standard in district nursing has been approved for delivery and will offer an alternative route.

### Expected working hours and salary range

District nursing jobs usually start at band 6 but there is opportunity to move up the bands with more experience. District nurses in the NHS will usually work standard hours of 37.5 per week. Most will work weekdays but there might be some weekend work. Terms and conditions can vary for employers outside of the NHS.

### Desirable skills and values

You will need to be adaptable and resourceful, working in a variety of workplaces and without the resources of a hospital at hand. You'll need to be well organised, confident and able to cope in potentially challenging situations. Leadership and management skills are also important as you will supervise and lead a team of community staff nurses and healthcare assistants in the delivery of care.

### Prospects

You could lead a team of nurses and healthcare assistants and with experience you could progress to community sister and community matron. Some nurses decide to do into service management, teaching or clinical academic research.

## Related roles

- Adult nurse [7]
- General practice nurse [8]
- Children's nurse [9]
- Health visitor [10]

## Links

[1] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/doctors/roles-doctors/medicine/medical-ophthalmology>  
[2] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/doctors/roles-doctors/ophthalmology> [3]  
<https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/doctors/roles-doctors/medicine/neurology> [4]  
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<https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/public-health/roles-public-health/health-visitor>