

# 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.

## • District nurse <sup>[1]</sup>

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

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- [General practice nurse](#) [3]
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