

# 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 oncology** <sup>[1]</sup>

Medical oncologists are doctors who diagnose, assess, treat and manage patients with cancers.

### Training and qualifications required

Training usually starts with a five year first degree in medicine, MBBS. 2 years foundation doctor training, 2 years core training (CT1-2), followed by 4 years specialists training (ST3-6). 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 medical 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

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 approximately 485 medical oncologists working in the NHS in England. In 2020, there were 185 applications for 39 specialty training places. You could specialise in specific cancers such as gastrointestinal tract, urological, cancers of the blood and lymphatic system or cancers of the female reproductive system.

## Related roles

- [Palliative medicine](#) [2]
- [Gastroenterology](#) [3]
- [General practitioner](#) [4]
- [Knowledge and library services](#) [5]

## • [Neonatal nurse](#) [6]

[Neonatal](#) [7] nurses care for newborn babies who are born premature or sick. A newborn baby can suffer from a range conditions requiring treatment.

### Training and qualifications required

You need to a registered adult nurse, child nurse or midwife to apply for a job as a neonatal nurse. Some employers may ask for experience or knowledge of neonatal nursing issues, for example handling bereavements or related areas such as breast feeding.

### Expected working hours and salary range

Most jobs in the NHS are covered by the Agenda for Change (AfC) pay scales. This pay system covers all staff except doctors, dentists and the most senior managers. Neonatal nursing jobs usually start at band 5 but there is opportunity to progress with more experience. Neonatal nurses in the NHS will usually work standard hours of 37.5 per week. Terms and conditions can vary for employers outside of the NHS.

### Desirable skills and values

You might be responsible for babies with a range of health needs so being highly organised, flexible and able to prioritise effectively will be vital. A good nurse is also highly observant, able to assess patients and take responsibility for determining the best course of action.

### Prospects

With experience you could progress to sister or matron in neonatal nursing. Some nurses decide to move into service management, clinical academic research or teaching.

## Related roles

- [Adult nurse](#) [8]
- [Children's nurse](#) [9]
- [Midwife](#) [10]
- [Paediatrician](#) [11]

---

**Source URL:** [https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/compare-roles-health?field\\_field\\_role=302](https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/compare-roles-health?field_field_role=302)

## Links

[1] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/doctors/roles-doctors/medicine/medical-oncology> [2]  
<https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/doctors/roles-doctors/medicine/palliative-medicine> [3]  
<https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/doctors/roles-doctors/medicine/gastroenterology> [4]  
<https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/doctors/roles-doctors/general-practitioner> [5]  
<https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/health-informatics/roles-health-informatics/knowledge-and->

library-services [6] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/node/4139/neonatal-nurse> [7] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#Neonatal> [8] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/nursing/roles-nursing/adult-nurse> [9] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/nursing/roles-nursing/childrens-nurse> [10] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/midwifery/roles-midwifery/midwife> [11] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/doctors/roles-doctors/paediatrics/paediatrician>