

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.

- **Prison nurse** ^[1]

Nurses working in prison healthcare provide the same level of care and support as nurses in the community.

Training and qualifications required

To work as a nurse in prison healthcare you'll need to be a qualified, registered nurse and hold a current registration with the NMC. Training will be provided to help you adapt to this unique environment. There is no specific qualification required to enable a nurse to work in a prison. Informal visits are encouraged, so contact the relevant healthcare provider for the prison site for further details. Anyone applying to work within a prison will go through an enhanced prison vetting process.

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. As a prison healthcare nurse, you could work directly for the NHS or be employed by a private healthcare provider delivering services on behalf of the NHS. Prison nurses in the NHS usually start at band 5 and work standard hours of 37.5 per week.

Desirable skills and values

Your personality and communication skills are crucial components of being a nurse in prison healthcare. You'll need resilience, patience, compassion and communication/problem solving skills. Conflict management skills and a good knowledge of the criminal justice system and how it relates to the role will also help.

Prospects

With further training and experience, prison nurses can apply for more senior nursing roles, such as senior practice nurse/nurse practitioner and advanced nurse practitioner positions either within prisons or general practices.

Related roles

- [Mental health nurse](#) [2]
- [General practice nurse](#) [3]
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