

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.

- **Genomic counselling** ^[1]

Genetic counsellors* work directly with patients and families offering genetic/genomic information and support allowing them to make health decisions.

Training and qualifications required

For the NHS Scientist Training Programme you'll need a 1st or 2.1 either in an undergraduate honours degree or an integrated master's degree in a relevant pure or applied science subject. If you have a relevant 2.2 honours degree, you'll also be considered if you have a higher degree in a subject relevant to the specialism for which you are applying. Evidence of research experience is desirable. Experience of working in a caring role (e.g. through previous professional work such as nursing/midwifery or in a voluntary capacity) is highly desirable, and candidates are unlikely to be shortlisted onto the STP without this. As genomic counselling involves working with individuals in emotive circumstances, it can be helpful to spend some time working in similar settings anyway, prior to training to help determine whether this is the right career for you.

Expected working hours and salary range

Genetic/genomic counsellors are covered by Agenda for Change (AfC) pay scales. As a trainee genetic/genomic counsellor, your starting salary would typically be AfC band 6. Once qualified and working as an autonomous practitioner, you would typically receive a salary at AfC band 7-9. Staff will usually work a standard 37.5 hours per week. There may occasionally be unsociable hours but this is unusual. Terms and conditions of service can vary for employers outside the NHS.

Desirable skills and values

A career in genetic/genomic counselling is well suited to those with a strong interest in genetic science but also with well-developed people skills who would prefer to work in a patient-facing role to combine genomics education and counselling. Many of those who apply for the training for genomic counselling have undertaken short counselling courses. You'll need excellent communication and counselling skills to support and empower people at emotionally difficult

times as they adjust to the genetic condition in them or their family.

Prospects

With further training, experience or both, you may be able to develop your career and apply for vacancies in areas of further specialism, management, research or teaching. Genetic/genomic counsellors have a structured career progression that takes them to principal and then consultant positions (AfC band 8a-9).

Related roles

- [Genomics](#) [2]
- [Counsellor](#) [3]
- [Clinical bioinformatics \(genomics\)](#) [4]
- [Counselling psychologist](#) [5]

• [Prison nurse](#) [6]

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](#) [7]

- General practice nurse [8]
- Clinical psychologist [9]
- Public health nurse [10]

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