

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.

• Health and safety officer ^[1]

Health and safety is very important in the NHS. Health and safety officers aim to minimise risks to patients, staff and visitors.

Training and qualifications required

Health and safety officers have a qualification in health and safety. To join the NHS as a health and safety officer you often need a relevant degree or postgraduate level qualification. Degree courses are three years full time and you'll usually need appropriate level 3 qualifications for entry. To get onto a postgraduate course you usually need an honours degree, a NEBOSH qualification or professional experience. When you join the NHS as a health and safety officer you will have training to introduce you to the department and its systems and procedures. Your employer will expect you to keep your skills and knowledge up to date by attending short courses on particular topics such as accident investigation or risk management. You may be encouraged to take further qualifications.

Expected working hours and salary range

Health and safety officers working in the NHS are paid on the Agenda for Change (AfC) pay system. You would typically start on AfC band 5. With further training and experience, you could apply for more senior positions at bands 6 and above. Health and safety officers in the NHS work standard hours of around 37.5 a week. The job may involve some evening and weekend working. Health and safety officers may be on call if there is an incident. Terms and conditions will usually be different for fire safety officers working outside of the NHS.

Desirable skills and values

Health and safety officers need to be interested in health and safety, willing to follow procedures, able to train staff at all levels, able to prioritise, willing to work under pressure and remain calm in stressful situations. They also need report writing, time management, good planning and organisational skills.

Prospects

With experience, a health and safety officer can become a manager, with a team of staff and responsible for the health and safety in a hospital, area or trust. There are opportunities outside the NHS.

Related roles

- [Environmental health professional](#) [2]
- [Fire safety officer](#) [3]
- [Medical device risk management and governance](#) [4]
- [Occupational health nurse](#) [5]

• [Operating department practitioner](#) [6]

Operating department practitioners play a major role in each phase of a person's operation.

Training and qualifications required

You'll need to study for a 3-year degree in operating department practice at university. Part-time courses are available. You will usually need a minimum of five GCSEs at grades A-C (or equivalent) plus A-level (or equivalent) qualifications. These will vary depending on the university so check with the universities you are considering applying to. A degree standard apprenticeship in operating department practice has also been approved.

Expected working hours and salary range

Most jobs in the NHS are covered by the Agenda for Change (AfC) pay scales. ODPs in the NHS will usually start at band 5 and can progress to roles at band 8 and above. You'll work standard hours of 37.5 per week. Terms and conditions will vary for any jobs outside of the NHS.

Desirable skills and values

You'll need a variety of skills to be an operating department practitioner including a caring and compassionate nature, being able to work in a highly technical area, excellent problem solving and organisational skills, very good communication skills, be able to stand for long periods and react quickly in an emergency within a confined area. If you're applying for a role either directly in or working on behalf of the NHS, you'll be asked to demonstrate the values of the NHS Constitution.

Prospects

You'll have several options to progress your career in operating department practice, including management, education, research and advanced practice. Experienced ODPs can take further training approved by the Royal College of Surgeons to work as surgical care practitioners. After a typical two-year training programme, you'll be able to complete certain surgical procedures under the supervision of a consultant surgeon.

Related roles

- [Theatre nurse](#) [7]
- [Theatre support worker](#) [8]
- [General surgery](#) [9]
- [Anaesthesia](#) [10]

Source URL:https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/compare-roles-health?field_field_role=306

Links

[1] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/wider-healthcare-team/roles-wider-healthcare-team/support-services/health-and-safety-officer> [2] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/public-health/roles-public-health/environmental-health-professional> [3] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/wider-healthcare-team/roles-wider-healthcare-team/support-services/fire-safety-officer> [4] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/healthcare-science/roles-healthcare-science/physical-sciences-and-biomedical-engineering/medical-device-risk-management-and-governance> [5] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/public-health/roles-public-health/occupational-health-nurse> [6] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/allied-health-professionals/roles-allied-health-professions/operating-department-practitioner> [7] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/nursing/roles-nursing/theatre-nurse> [8] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/wider-healthcare-team/roles-wider-healthcare-team/clinical-support-staff/theatre-support-worker> [9] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/doctors/roles-doctors/surgery/general-surgery> [10] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/doctors/roles-doctors/anaesthesia>