

## 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.

- **Pharmacy technician** <sup>[1]</sup>

Pharmacy technicians are essential to the smooth running of pharmacies, making sure patients get the most out of their medicines.

### Training and qualifications required

You need to study for an accredited qualification such as a BTEC National Diploma in pharmaceutical science, NVQ/SVQ level 3 in pharmacy services or a National Certificate in pharmaceutical science. To apply for a course, you need to be working in a pharmacy. Employers, including the NHS, offer jobs for trainee pharmacy technicians (or dispensing assistants). Employers usually ask for at least 4 GCSEs (9-4/A\*-C), including English, maths and science or equivalent qualifications. A level 3 apprenticeship for pharmacy technicians is also available. It will help your application for a course or apprenticeship if you can show that you have an understanding of pharmacy and how it benefits patients. It is a good idea to spend some time with a registered pharmacist to see what the work is like.

### Expected working hours and salary range

Pharmacy technicians working in the NHS will work standard hours of around 37.5 a week which may include shifts. Newly-qualified pharmacy technicians will usually start in the NHS at band 4 of the Agenda for Change pay scale. Terms and conditions can vary for pharmacy technicians outside of the NHS, including those working in high street and retail pharmacies.

### Desirable skills and values

Pharmacy technicians need to be accurate and methodical, have an attention to detail, be able to read and carry out instructions and interested in people's health. You'll need communication, customer service, science, IT and organisation skills.

## Prospects

With experience, you could specialise in a particular area of practice such as mental health, oncology (cancer treatment) or paediatrics. Or you could specialise in areas such as medicines management, manufacturing, quality control, education and training, information technology, supplies procurement, clinical trials or medicine information services. You could also take additional training to extend your practice to include additional responsibilities. You could become a senior pharmacy technician, responsible for the work of other technicians. A chief pharmacy technician is responsible for the day-to-day management of a pharmacy department.

## Related roles

- Pharmacist <sup>[2]</sup>
- Pharmaceutical medicine <sup>[3]</sup>
- Clinical pharmaceutical science <sup>[4]</sup>
- Experienced paramedic <sup>[5]</sup>

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## Links

[1] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/pharmacy/roles-pharmacy/pharmacy-technician>

[2] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/pharmacy/roles-pharmacy/pharmacist/pharmacist>

[3] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/doctors/roles-doctors/medicine/pharmaceutical-medicine>

[4] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/healthcare-science/roles-healthcare-science/physical-sciences-and-biomedical-engineering/clinical-pharmaceutical-science>

[5] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/ambulance-service-team/roles-ambulance-service/experienced-paramedic>