

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.

• **Counsellor** ^[1]

Counsellors work with people experiencing a wide range of emotional and psychological problems to help them bring about effective change and/or enhance their wellbeing.

Training and qualifications required

To work in the NHS as a counsellor, as a minimum you will need to be registered on a counselling or psychotherapy register accredited by the Professional Standards Authority (PSA). Some services, such as IAPT services, also require additional levels of accreditation and that you undertake additional training in a particular therapy delivered by the service. For some roles, employers may also require a clinical/professional qualification, such as being a registered nurse, occupational therapist or social worker. Each employer will indicate their individual requirements so make sure to check the person specification for the role.

Expected working hours and salary range

Counsellors are typically paid at Agenda for Change (AfC) Band 5, 6 or 7 on entry, depending on the role. There may be opportunities to progress to more senior roles. Counsellors work full or part time. Terms and conditions can vary for employers outside of the NHS.

Desirable skills and values

Skills needed include being able to make people feel relaxed, excellent communication skills and the ability to positively challenge people. If you're applying for a role either directly in the NHS or in an organisation that provides NHS services, you'll be asked to show how you think the values of the NHS Constitution apply in your everyday work.

Prospects

Depending on the level and type of training you've undertaken, it can lead to a number of opportunities in psychology and psychotherapy. You could specialise in an area such as eating disorders or addiction or apply to be a high intensity therapist or psychological well-being practitioner.

Related roles

- [Psychological wellbeing practitioner](#) [2]
- [Social worker](#) [3]
- [Mental health nurse](#) [4]
- [Clinical psychologist](#) [5]

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