

# 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.

- **Caretaker** <sup>[1]</sup>

Caretakers have a role in the security and maintenance of NHS buildings.

## Training and qualifications required

There are no set entry requirements to become a caretaker although employers usually ask for experience of caretaking work. They may ask for knowledge of health and health safety. It may be an advantage to have relevant qualifications in, for example, cleaning. You need a good standard of numeracy and literacy. Employers may ask for GCSEs in English and maths. Employers may ask for a full driving licence. When you start work as a caretaker in the NHS, you will get the training you need. This includes health and safety and manual handling. You may be expected to go on short courses on particular topics such as infection control or dealing with hazardous waste.

## Expected working hours and salary range

Caretakers working in the NHS are paid on the Agenda for Change (AfC) pay system. You will typically start on AfC band 2. With further training and experience, you could apply for more senior positions with broader responsibilities. Caretakers in the NHS work standard hours of around 37.5 a week. Some may work shifts including early starts and evenings. Terms and conditions will usually be different for caretakers working outside of the NHS.

## Desirable skills and values

Caretakers need to be willing to do tasks as needed, physically fit for moving, lifting, bending, etc, responsible for their own work, willing to work alone if necessary, very health and safety aware and methodical and reliable. They also need good organisational, practical and communication skills.

## Prospects

With experience, a caretaker could become a team leader supervising other caretaking staff, possibly across several sites. There may be opportunities to move into other estates services roles or into a support role. There are opportunities outside the NHS.

## Related roles

- Estates technician [2]
- Porter [3]
- Security staff [4]
- Emergency care assistant [5]

## • Imaging (ionising) [6]

Imaging with ionising radiation is an area of healthcare science that includes diagnostic radiology, interventional radiology and nuclear medicine.

### 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.

### Expected working hours and salary range

NHS staff will usually work a standard 37.5 hours per week. They may work a shift pattern. Most jobs in the NHS are covered by the Agenda for Change (AfC) pay scales. In ionising imaging, your salary will be between AfC bands 6 and 9, depending on your role and level of responsibility. Trainee clinical scientists train at band 6 level, and qualified clinical scientists are generally appointed at band 7. With experience and further qualifications, you could apply for posts up to band 9. Terms and conditions of service can vary for employers outside the NHS.

### Desirable skills and values

Effective communication skills, a mature, calm confident but sympathetic approach to achieve the best outcome for each patient, an interest in science and technology, comfortable using modern technology and complex equipment, and able to work as part of a team.

### Prospects

With further training or experience or both, you may be able to develop your career further and apply for vacancies in areas such as further specialisation, management, research, or teaching.

## Related roles

- Imaging (non-ionising) [7]
- Diagnostic radiographer [8]
- Clinical radiology [9]
- Radiotherapy physics [10]

## Links

[1] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/wider-healthcare-team/roles-wider-healthcare-team/estates-services/caretaker> [2] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/wider-healthcare-team/roles-wider-healthcare-team/estates-services/estates-technician> [3] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/wider-healthcare-team/roles-wider-healthcare-team/support-services/porter> [4] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/wider-healthcare-team/roles-wider-healthcare-team/support-services/security-staff> [5] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/ambulance-service-team/roles-ambulance-service/emergency-care-assistant> [6] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/healthcare-science/roles-healthcare-science/physical-sciences-and-biomedical-engineering/imaging-ionising/imaging-ionising> [7] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/healthcare-science/roles-healthcare-science/physical-sciences-and-biomedical-engineering/imaging-non-ionising> [8] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/allied-health-professionals/roles-allied-health-professions/roles-allied-health-professions/diagnostic-radiographer> [9] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/doctors/roles-doctors/clinical-radiology> [10] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/healthcare-science/roles-healthcare-science/physical-sciences-and-biomedical-engineering/radiotherapy-physics/radiotherapy-physics>