

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.

• Dental support worker ^[1]

Dental support workers are part of the dental health team. See how they help to treat patients and give advice on looking after teeth. Find out how you could become a dental support worker.

Training and qualifications required

There are no set entry requirements for dental support workers. Employers usually expect good literacy, numeracy and IT skills. They may ask for GCSEs or equivalent qualifications. Employers often ask for relevant work experience. Even where this is not specified, it would be an advantage if you have worked in health or social care, either in paid employment or voluntary work. There are sometimes apprenticeships in dental support roles. You will receive the training you need to work as a dental support worker. This includes an introduction to the department and its systems and procedures, information about dentistry and oral hygiene and using the equipment.

Expected working hours and salary range

Dental support staff working in the NHS are paid on the Agenda for Change (AfC) pay system. You would typically start on AfC band 2. Most dental support workers in the NHS work standard hours, which are likely to be around 37.5 a week. They may work some evenings or weekends. Terms and conditions will usually be different for dental support staff working outside of the NHS.

Desirable skills and values

Dental support workers need to reassure patients, be careful and methodical, follow instructions carefully, record data accurately, pay attention to detail, explain clearly to patients and work with all types of people. They also need good communication skills and may need skills in speaking to groups.

Prospects

With further training, experience and provided you had the appropriate qualifications necessary, you could apply for training in the other dental care professionals roles such as

dental nurse, dental hygienist or dental therapist.

Related roles

- [Dental technician/dental technologist](#) [2]
- [Dental nurse](#) [3]
- [Dental therapist](#) [4]
- [Dentist](#) [5]

• [Cardiographer](#) [6]

Cardiographers monitor patients' hearts to support decisions around treatment and any additional care needed.

Training and qualifications required

There are no set entry requirements for cardiographers. Employers expect good numeracy and literacy and may ask for at least two GCSEs (or equivalent) including English and maths. Some ask for science as well. Some employers ask for A levels or equivalent qualifications in science. You will receive the training you need to work as a cardiographer. As part of your training, you are likely to study for the Award or Certificate in Electrocardiography from the Society for Cardiological Science and Technology.

Expected working hours and salary range

As a cardiographer, you will typically start on Agenda for Change band 2. It is possible to apply for more senior positions at band 3 or 4, after further training and experience. Most cardiographers in the NHS work standard hours, which are likely to be around 37.5 a week. They may work some evenings or weekends. Terms and conditions will usually be different for clinical support staff working outside of the NHS.

Desirable skills and values

As a cardiographer, you'd need to be able to reassure patients, operate machines, be interested in science and technology, follow instructions carefully, record data accurately, pay attention to detail, explain clearly to patients, work with all types of people. You'd need good technological, IT and communication skills.

Prospects

As you gain experience, you could become a senior cardiographer, working with more complicated equipment or have more responsibility for working with patients. You would usually also supervise the work of other cardiographers. With experience and further training, and if you have the academic ability to do so, you could apply for an undergraduate BSc (Hons) Healthcare Science (Cardiac Physiology) - the NHS Practitioner Training Programme, enabling you to work as a healthcare science practitioner in cardiac sciences.

Related roles

- [Cardiac sciences](#) [7]
- [Cardiologist](#) [8]
- [Cardiothoracic surgeon](#) [9]
- [Knowledge and library services](#) [10]

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Links

[1] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/Explore-roles/wider-healthcare-team/roles-wider-healthcare-team/clinical-support-staff/dental-support-worker> [2] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/dental-team/roles-dental-team/dental-techniciandental-technologist> [3] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/dental-team/roles-dental-team/dental-nurse> [4] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/dental-team/roles-dental-team/dental-therapist> [5] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/dental-team/roles-dental-team/dentist> [6] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/wider-healthcare-team/roles-wider-healthcare-team/clinical-support-staff/cardiographer> [7] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/healthcare-science/roles-healthcare-science/physiological-sciences/cardiac-sciences> [8] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/doctors/roles-doctors/medicine/cardiology> [9] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/doctors/roles-doctors/surgery/cardiothoracic-surgery> [10] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/health-informatics/roles-health-informatics/knowledge-and-library-services>