

# 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.

## • Biomedical science <sup>[1]</sup>

Biomedical scientists conduct laboratory and scientific tests to support the diagnosis and treatment of disease.

### Training and qualifications required

An accredited degree and registration with the Health and Care Professions Council. Occasionally there are trainee biomedical scientist positions for applicants with relevant A levels or appropriate level 3 qualifications.

### Expected working hours and salary range

In the NHS you'd typically work a 37.5 hour week and be paid on Agenda for Change pay bands 5 - 9, depending on your role and level of responsibility. Terms and conditions of service will vary for employers outside of the NHS.

### Desirable skills and values

Attention to detail, scientific research skills, comfortable with complex equipment and a good team player.

### Prospects

You could work in many different NHS, government and private laboratories, including hospital, NHS Blood and Transplant and the UK Health Security Agency laboratories. Biomedical scientists can progress to other roles within healthcare science specialising in quality, safety, laboratory management, or in the wider pharmaceutical and healthcare science sector.

## Related roles

- Immunology <sup>[2]</sup>
- Microbiology (healthcare scientist) <sup>[3]</sup>
- Clinical biochemistry <sup>[4]</sup>

- Clinical pharmaceutical science [5]

- **Surgical care practitioner** [6]

Surgical care practitioners are members of the surgery team within the NHS. You'll support surgeons and other healthcare professionals before, during and after surgical procedures.

#### Training and qualifications required

You'll need to be a qualified and registered healthcare professional such as a nurse or allied health professional with at least 18 months experience.

#### Expected working hours and salary range

Surgical care practitioners in the NHS work standard hours, which are likely to be around 37.5 a week. While training, they will be paid at band 6 of the Agenda for Change pay rates and at band 7 after qualifying.

#### Desirable skills and values

You'll need a commitment to patient care and patient safety, an understanding surgical team and an aptitude for both clinical and operative practice.

#### Prospects

As a member of the surgical team, you'll be offered opportunities to develop your career further by learning more about service delivery. This will support your progression through the Agenda for Change banding structure.

### Related roles

- Operating department practitioner [7]
- Theatre nurse [8]
- Theatre support worker [9]
- General surgery [10]

---

**Source URL:** [https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/compare-roles-health?field\\_field\\_role=3354](https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/compare-roles-health?field_field_role=3354)

### Links

[1] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/Explore-roles/healthcare-science/roles-healthcare-science/life-sciences/biomedical-science> [2] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/doctors/roles-doctors/medicine/immunology> [3] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/healthcare-science/roles-healthcare-science/life-sciences/microbiology> [4] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/Explore-roles/healthcare-science/roles-healthcare-science/life-sciences/clinical-biochemistry> [5] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/healthcare-science/roles-healthcare-science/physical-sciences-and-biomedical-engineering/clinical-pharmaceutical-science> [6] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/medical-associate-professions/roles-medical-associate-professions/surgical-care-practitioner> [7] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/allied-health-professionals/roles-allied-health-professions/operating-department-practitioner> [8] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/nursing/roles-nursing/theatre-nurse> [9] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/wider-healthcare-team/roles-wider-healthcare-team/clinical-support-staff/theatre-support-worker> [10] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/doctors/roles-doctors/surgery/general-surgery>