

## 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.

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

Housekeepers help make sure that hospital wards and other settings are clean, safe and attractive places for patients and staff.

### Training and qualifications required

There are no set entry requirements. Employers expect a good standard of numeracy and literacy and may ask for GCSEs in English and maths. They may also ask for relevant qualifications such in hotel services or health care. When you start work as a housekeeper you will get the training you need to do the job. This includes an introduction to the department and the ward and its systems and procedures. You will also have training in health and safety and manual handling. You may be encouraged to take a qualification in housekeeping.

### Expected working hours and salary range

Housekeepers working in the NHS are paid on the Agenda for Change (AfC) pay system. You would typically start on AfC band 2. With further training and experience, you could apply for more senior positions such as domestic services team manager or senior housekeeper at band 3. Housekeepers usually work standard hours of around 37.5 a week. They may work shifts, which, in some departments, could involve nights, early starts, evenings and weekends. Terms and conditions will usually be different for housekeepers working outside of the NHS.

### Desirable skills and values

Housekeepers need to be physically fit for moving, lifting and cleaning, able to work as part of a team, friendly and caring, understanding of patients' needs, able to take responsibility for their own work, health and safety aware, flexible and adaptable and able to follow instructions and procedures. They also need good organisational skills and good communication skills with staff and patients.

### Prospects

With experience, housekeepers can become team leaders, supervising the work of other domestic services staff. They can progress to become managers, responsible for a department or area. Housekeepers may be able to move into other areas such as facilities management.

You could move into a clinical support role, such as healthcare assistant or maternity support worker. Or you could apply to train as a nurse or other healthcare professional.

### Related roles

- [Chef/cook](#) <sup>[2]</sup>
- [Decontamination science \(sterile services and flexible endoscopy\)](#) <sup>[3]</sup>
- [Healthcare assistant](#) <sup>[4]</sup>
- [Hotel services management](#) <sup>[5]</sup>

### • [Physiotherapy assistants/support workers](#) <sup>[6]</sup>

Physiotherapy assistants make a difference to the lives of our patients every day by helping them recover from a range of illnesses and conditions. It is also a route to becoming a physiotherapist.

#### Training and qualifications required

There are no set entry requirements for physiotherapy assistants. Employers expect good numeracy and literacy and some experience or qualifications in health or social care. Employers may ask for GCSEs in English and maths. Apprenticeships in healthcare can provide you with experience to apply for physiotherapy assistant and other clinical support roles. You will be given the training you need to do the job, including an introduction to the department and its procedures and how to set up and use the equipment. You may be offered the chance to study for qualifications such as the NCFE CACHE level 2 Certificate in Healthcare Support Services or the NCFE CACHE level 3 Diploma in Healthcare Support.

#### Expected working hours and salary range

As a physiotherapy assistant you will typically start on Agenda for Change band 2 or 3. With further training and experience, you could apply for more senior positions at band 4 - eg as an assistant practitioner. Physiotherapy assistants in the NHS work standard hours, which are likely to be around 37.5 a week. This may include evenings and weekends. Terms and conditions will usually be different for physiotherapy assistants working outside of the NHS.

#### Desirable skills and values

As a physiotherapy assistant, you need to be happy to be hands-on with patients, willing to demonstrate exercises, able to use gym equipment, a good listener, calm and understanding, happy to talk to and work with groups, able to follow procedures, able to motivate people, willing to work alone or in a team and physically fit. You'll also need good organisational and communication skills and the ability to explain treatment to patients.

#### Prospects

With experience, you could become a team leader supervising the work of other physiotherapy assistants. You could apply to train as an assistant practitioner or, with the qualifications needed for entry into university, as a physiotherapist.

### Related roles

- [Occupational therapist](#) <sup>[7]</sup>
- [Occupational therapy support worker](#) <sup>[8]</sup>

- Physiotherapist <sup>[9]</sup>
- Radiography assistants and imaging support workers <sup>[10]</sup>

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### Links

[1] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/wider-healthcare-team/roles-wider-healthcare-team/domestic-services/housekeeper> [2] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/wider-healthcare-team/roles-wider-healthcare-team/domestic-services/chef-and-cook> [3] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/healthcare-science/roles-healthcare-science/physical-sciences-and-biomedical-engineering/decontamination-and-sterile-services> [4] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/healthcare-support-worker/roles-healthcare-support-worker/healthcare-assistant> [5] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/management/roles-management/operational-management/hotel-services-management> [6] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/healthcare-support-worker/roles-healthcare-support-worker/physiotherapy-assistantssupport-workers> [7] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/allied-health-professionals/roles-allied-health-professions/occupational-therapist> [8] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/healthcare-support-worker/roles-healthcare-support-worker/occupational-therapy-support-worker> [9] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/allied-health-professionals/roles-allied-health-professions/physiotherapist> [10] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/healthcare-support-worker/roles-healthcare-support-worker/radiography-assistants-and-imaging-support-workers>