

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.

Healthcare support worker [1]

Healthcare support workers work across a variety of settings, from mental health to children's services. The choice is yours. As a healthcare support worker, you'll work under the supervision of a healthcare professional, supporting them and helping patients on their journey back to full health.

Training and qualifications required

There are no set entry requirements to become a healthcare support worker, but good literacy and numeracy skills are expected, and in some cases GCSEs (or equivalent) in English and maths are required too. You may also need a healthcare qualification such as a BTEC or NVQ for some of our roles.

Expected working hours and salary range

Your standard working week will be around 37.5 hours and may include a mix of shifts, such as nights, early starts, evenings and weekends. As a healthcare support worker, you'll be paid on the Agenda for Change (AFC) pay system, typically starting on band 2.

Desirable skills and values

For some roles, some experience of healthcare or care work may be beneficial – this could be from paid or voluntary work, or through experience you bring in from previous roles. You'll also need to be caring, kind and willing to really get stuck into the role – it's a hands-on environment where teamwork, communication and organisational skills are vital.

Prospects

You'll have access to world-class training and learn basic nursing skills. You'll also work towards gaining qualifications such as the Care Certificate. But that's not all. You'll gain plenty of on-the-job experience and be surrounded by experts who'll support you as you progress through your career. And with regular check-ins to discuss your career aspirations, you'll always be moving forward.

Related roles

- Healthcare assistant [2]
- Maternity support worker [3]
- Nursing associate [4]
- Physiotherapy assistants/support workers [5]

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