

# Compare roles in health

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## • **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]

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## 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>