

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.

- **Driver** ^[1]

Drivers are at the heart of the NHS by making sure that our patients, goods and supplies are where they need to be at the right time.

Training and qualifications required

Drivers in the NHS have to have the correct driving licence for the vehicle they drive. Most employers expect you have a driving licence when you apply. NHS and ambulance service trusts use vehicles of different sizes, so check carefully which classifications you need on your licence. Employers expect good levels of numeracy and literacy and may ask for GCSEs (or equivalent) in English and maths. They may also ask for relevant driving or customer service experience (eg from paid or voluntary work). When you join the NHS you will get the training you need. This may depend on the type of driving you are doing and may include health and safety, lifting and handling and customer care. You may be expected to go on short courses on particular topics such as handling hazardous waste and may be encouraged to take further qualifications such as training to drive other vehicles.

Expected working hours and salary range

Drivers working for the NHS may be volunteers, and paid an allowance for using their vehicle. Drivers directly employed by the NHS will be paid on the Agenda for Change (AfC) pay system. The salary will depend on your precise role - check vacancies individually for details. For example, as a PTS driver, you would be on AfC band 2 or 3. A driver for the Blood Transfusion Service would typically be on AfC band 3. Drivers in the NHS work standard hours of around 37.5 a week. Some may work shifts including early starts and evenings.

Desirable skills and values

NHS drivers need to be safe and careful drivers, physically fit for getting in and out of vehicles and loading and unloading, able to navigate around an area using sat nav or maps, able to keep to a schedule and willing to work unsupervised. They also need driving skills, good customer service skills, especially when dealing with patients, communication and organisation skills.

Prospects

You could progress to become a team leader or supervisor. You would be in charge of a team of drivers, responsible for allocating work and drawing up transport schedules. Drivers can also progress by training to drive other vehicles. Drivers could apply to train for other roles such as an emergency care assistant or patient transport service (PTS) call handler.

Related roles

- Ambulance care assistant and Patient Transport Service (PTS) driver [2]
- Paramedic [3]
- Porter [4]
- Stores and distribution staff [5]

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