

# 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.

## • **Finance staff** <sup>[1]</sup>

NHS finance staff make sure sure that our budgets are spent wisely and for the benefit of our patients.

### Training and qualifications required

Finance staff in the NHS will usually work towards a finance qualification. You can either enter as a trainee (you usually need at least 2 GCSEs including English and maths, or equivalent) and study while you work, or take a finance qualification and apply to join the NHS. Employers may also ask for IT skills. They may expect some customer service or office experience. There are apprenticeships in finance departments. If you join the NHS with a finance qualification this could be one from the Association of Accounting Technicians or Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales. If you have a degree in a non-finance subject, you can apply for the NHS Graduate Management Training Scheme and work towards professional accountancy qualifications. Finance trainees are encouraged to take further qualifications.

### Expected working hours and salary range

Most finance staff (except the most senior managers) working in the NHS are paid on the Agenda for Change (AfC) pay system. You will typically start in a post at AfC band 2. With further training and experience, you could apply for more senior positions such as finance officer at band 3 or team leader at band 4. There are managerial roles in finance at more senior levels. Finance staff in the NHS work standard hours of around 37.5 a week. Terms and conditions will usually be different for clinical support staff working outside of the NHS.

### Desirable skills and values

Finance staff have to be interested in figures and money, accurate and methodical, honest, able to work to deadlines, able to follow instructions and procedures and willing to use IT-based systems. You'll also need excellent numeracy skills, IT skills and organisational skills.

### Prospects

With experience, finance staff can become team leaders supervising the work of other finance staff. They can progress to become managers responsible for a department or area. Some

progress to senior roles such as head of finance or finance director.

### Related roles

- [Administrative management](#) <sup>[2]</sup>
- [Finance manager](#) <sup>[3]</sup>
- [Human resources \(HR\) manager](#) <sup>[4]</sup>
- [Strategic management](#) <sup>[5]</sup>

## • [Community sexual and reproductive health](#) <sup>[6]</sup>

Doctors working in community sexual and reproductive health care for people's sexual health by treating sexually transmitted diseases and consulting on contraception, menopause and unplanned pregnancies.

### Training and qualifications required

Training usually starts with a five year first degree in medicine, two years foundation doctor training, six years specialist training (ST1-6) leading to Fellowship of the Faculty of Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare (FFSRH). Length of training can vary according to your circumstances.

### Expected working hours and salary range

Doctors may work up to 48 hours a week. The working hours may sometimes extend beyond the normal working day to include early mornings, evenings and weekends. You'll first earn a salary when you start your foundation training after medical school. The basic salary ranges from £29,384 to £34,012. Once you start your specialty training as a community sexual and reproductive health doctor employed by the NHS, you can expect to earn a salary of at least £40,257, which can increase to between £84,559 and £114,003 as a consultant.

### Desirable skills and values

You'll need excellent communication skills to manage a wide range of relationships with colleagues, and patients and their families. You'll be emotionally resilient, have excellent problem-solving and diagnostic skills and work well in teams and under pressure. You'll also be very organised for the benefit of patients.

### Prospects

In 2021, there were 124 consultants in community sexual and reproductive health in the NHS in England. You could specialise or conduct research in areas such as improving choice, access and uptake of contraception, teach medical students or postgraduate students in training or get involved in research at universities, the NHS or private sector.

### Related roles

- [General practitioner](#) <sup>[7]</sup>
- [Paediatrician](#) <sup>[8]</sup>
- [Obstetrics and gynaecology](#) <sup>[9]</sup>
- [Genitourinary medicine](#) <sup>[10]</sup>

## • Theatre support worker <sup>[11]</sup>

Theatre support workers are the glue keeping the surgical team together. They make sure each member of the team is able to do their job effectively.

### Training and qualifications required

There are no set entry requirements. Employers expect a good standard of numeracy and literacy and may ask for GCSEs (or equivalent) in English and maths and may well ask for experience of healthcare. Most have worked in the NHS in another healthcare role such as healthcare assistant or other clinical support role. You could gain experience of healthcare by securing a healthcare-related apprenticeship, and then applying for a permanent position as a healthcare assistant or other clinical support role. When you start as a theatre support worker you will be trained. Your training will include health and safety, infection control and an introduction to the department and its systems and procedures. You will be encouraged to take relevant vocational qualifications. Apprenticeships in Health - Perioperative Support (Intermediate, Advanced and Higher levels) may be available.

### Expected working hours and salary range

As a member of the theatre support staff in the NHS, 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. Theatre support staff work standard hours of around 37.5 a week. Some may work shifts including early starts, evenings and weekends. Terms and conditions will usually be different for clinical support staff working outside of the NHS.

### Desirable skills and values

As a theatre support worker, you'll need to be willing to be in operating theatre areas during surgery, calm and reassuring, health and safety aware, able to follow procedures, be part of a team but responsible for your own work. You'll also need good organisational, communication and team working skills.

### Prospects

With experience, a theatre support worker can become a senior theatre support worker, supervising the work of a team. Theatre support workers can apply for other roles in the wider healthcare team such as healthcare assistant. With the qualifications necessary for university study, they can also apply to train as a theatre nurse, operating department practitioner or other healthcare professional.

## Related roles

- Operating department practitioner <sup>[12]</sup>
- Porter <sup>[13]</sup>
- Experienced paramedic <sup>[14]</sup>
- Emergency care assistant <sup>[15]</sup>

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