

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.

- **Adult nurse** ^[1]

Adult nursing is a rewarding career where you have a real chance to make a difference to people's lives. As part of your training, you can expect to learn new skills and procedures that help patients.

Training and qualifications required

Entry requirements for adult nursing degrees and nursing degree apprenticeships are set by the individual universities and employers respectively, but typically you will usually need a minimum of five GCSEs at grade C/4 or above plus two A-levels or equivalent qualifications, such as a T level or BTEC at level 3. Some universities may ask for three A-levels or equivalent.

Expected working hours and salary range

Adult nurses in the NHS will usually work standard hours of 37.5 per week and will start at Agenda for Change band 5 with opportunities to progress. Many adult nurses will work shifts, especially within in-patient departments. Terms and conditions can vary for employers outside of the NHS, such as the police force or prison service.

Desirable skills and values

As you will be responsible for a number of patients, each with different needs, you have to be highly organised, flexible and able to prioritise effectively. On top of this, a good adult nurse is also highly observant, able to assess patients and take responsibility for determining the best course of action for them.

Prospects

You could specialise in areas such as operating theatres, care for the elderly or intensive care. You may want to work in public health, management, teaching or clinical research.

Related roles

- [Children's nurse](#) ^[2]
- [General practice nurse](#) ^[3]
- [District nurse](#) ^[4]
- [Learning disability nurse](#) ^[5]

• [Acute internal medicine](#) ^[6]

Doctors working in acute internal medicine assess, investigate, diagnose and manage patients with conditions that exhibit severe symptoms that develop quickly and may be life-threatening.

Training and qualifications required

Training usually starts with a five year first degree in medicine, then there's two years foundation doctor training, two years core training (CT1-CT2), followed by 4 years specialists training (ST3-ST6). For dual CCT: there's five years specialist training (ST3-ST7). This period of training will include your royal college exams. 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 including early mornings, evenings and weekends. You'll also need to be on call. The basic salary ranges from £29,384 to £34,012. Once you start your specialty training as a doctor in acute internal medicine 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

There are approximately 504 doctors working in acute internal medicine in NHS, England. In 2020, there were 510 applications for 94 specialty training posts. You'll need to specialise in a practical procedure such as echocardiography or gain qualifications in management, leadership or education. You'll also have opportunities to get involved in research.

Related roles

- [General internal medicine](#) ^[7]
- [Emergency medicine](#) ^[8]
- [Intensive care medicine](#) ^[9]
- [General practitioner](#) ^[10]

• [Rehabilitation medicine](#) ^[11]

Doctors in rehabilitation medicine assess and treat patients with complex disabling conditions.

Training and qualifications required

Training usually starts with a five year first degree in medicine. 2 year foundation doctor training, 2 year core medical training and 4 year specialist training (ST3-6). This period of training will include your royal college exams. 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 rehabilitation 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 159 consultants in rehabilitation medicine in the NHS in England. In addition, there were 42 applications for 14 training places. You could get involved in research, teach medical students or postgraduate students in training or develop medico-legal or private clinical practice.

Related roles

- [Geriatric medicine](#) ^[12]
- [Neurologist](#) ^[13]
- [Acute internal medicine](#) ^[6]
- [General practitioner](#) ^[10]

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Links

[1] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/nursing/roles-nursing/adult-nurse> [2]
<https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/nursing/roles-nursing/childrens-nurse> [3]
<https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/nursing/roles-nursing/general-practice-nurse> [4]
<https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/nursing/roles-nursing/district-nurse> [5]
<https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/nursing/roles-nursing/learning-disability-nurse> [6]
<https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/doctors/roles-doctors/medicine/acute-internal-medicine> [7]
<https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/doctors/roles-doctors/medicine/general-internal-medicine> [8]
<https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/doctors/roles-doctors/emergency-medicine> [9]
<https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/doctors/roles-doctors/intensive-care-medicine> [10]
<https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/doctors/roles-doctors/general-practitioner> [11]
<https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/doctors/roles-doctors/medicine/rehabilitation-medicine> [12]
<https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/doctors/roles-doctors/medicine/geriatric-medicine> [13]
<https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/doctors/roles-doctors/medicine/neurology>