

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.

• **Plumber** ^[1]

Heating systems and water supply is crucial for a successful NHS. Plumbers in the NHS make sure these are safe and in good working order.

Training and qualifications required

There are no set entry requirements but employers expect plumbers to have a qualification and experience in plumbing and/or heating and ventilation. To train as a plumber, you usually need at least three GCSEs (or equivalent) including maths, English and science. Employers may ask for some experience in construction or other practical work. An apprenticeship in an estates support role can provide this. Employers may ask for a driving licence. When you start as a trainee plumber, your training will include health and safety, how to use the tools and equipment and all aspects of plumbing, drainage and heating work. You'll be expected to study for vocational qualifications and may be encouraged to become multi-skilled by training in, for example, painting and decorating or tiling.

Expected working hours and salary range

Estates staff working in the NHS are paid on the Agenda for Change (AfC) pay system. As an estates support worker, you would typically start on AfC band 2. As a qualified plumber, you will typically start on AfC band 3. With further training and experience, you could apply for more senior positions at bands 4 and above. Plumbers in the NHS work standard hours of around 37.5 a week. The job may involve shifts including early starts, evenings and weekends. Plumbers may be part of an on-call rota for emergency cover. Terms and conditions will usually be different for plumbers working outside of the NHS.

Desirable skills and values

Plumbers need to be interested in practical work and repairs, able to follow technical instructions, accurate and methodical, health and safety aware, willing to work at heights where necessary and able to use tools. They also need good manual (hand) skills, organisational skills and time management skills.

Prospects

Once fully qualified and with experience, a plumber can become a team leader, supervising the work of others. With further experience you could progress to manager, responsible for maintenance and repair services in a hospital, area or trust. Plumbers may be able to move into other estates services roles. They can apply to train as engineers. There are opportunities outside the NHS. Some plumbers become self-employed by setting up a business, either on their own or with one or more colleagues.

Related roles

- [Painter and decorator](#) [2]
- [Carpenter/joiner](#) [3]
- [Tiler](#) [4]
- [Estates technician](#) [5]

• [Neurologist](#) [6]

Neurologists diagnose, treat and manage conditions affecting the brain and spinal cord, and disorders of the nerves and muscles that activate movement and transmit sensations from around the body to the brain.

Training and qualifications required

Training usually starts with a five year first degree in medicine. You'll then complete two years of foundation training, two years of core training (CT1-2) and four years of specialty training (ST3-6).

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, weekends and on call. The basic salary ranges from £29,384 to £34,012. Once you start your specialty training as a neurologist 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 2020 there were 207 applications for 50 specialty training places. You could specialise or conduct research in areas such as stroke medicine, epilepsy, multiple sclerosis (MS), sleep medicine or pain management. You could teach medical or postgraduate students or get involved in research.

Related roles

- [Cardiologist](#) [7]
- [Geriatric medicine](#) [8]
- [Neurosurgeon](#) [9]

- Rehabilitation medicine ^[10]

- **Pharmaceutical medicine** ^[11]

Doctors working in pharmaceutical medicine develop, evaluate and market new medicines for the benefit of patients and the health of the community.

Training and qualifications required

Training usually starts with a five year first degree in medicine. 2 years foundation doctor training, 2 years core training (CT1-2), followed by 4 years specialists 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

Most pharmaceutical medicine roles for doctors are available outside the NHS, for example in research organisations, medical regulatory bodies, independent practitioners and the pharmaceutical industry. Doctors in the NHS may work up to 48 hours a week. The basic salary for NHS doctors ranges from £29,384 to £34,012. Once you start your specialty training as a 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

You could teach medical or postgraduate students and clinical trials teams, specialise in laboratory-based or clinical research-based projects related to products, product classes or therapy areas conduct specialist research or work outside medical departments in medico-legal, communications or economic disciplines in pharmaceutical companies or regulatory organisations.

Related roles

- Clinical pharmacology and therapeutics ^[12]
- Allergy ^[13]
- Dermatology ^[14]
- Sport and exercise medicine ^[15]

Source URL: https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/compare-roles-health?field_field_role=525

Links

[1] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/wider-healthcare-team/roles-wider-healthcare-team/estates-services/plumber> [2] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/wider-healthcare-team/roles-wider-healthcare-team/estates-services/painter-and-decorator> [3] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/wider-healthcare-team/roles-wider-healthcare-team/estates-services/carpenterjoiner> [4] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/wider-healthcare-team/roles-wider-healthcare-team/estates-services/tiler> [5] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/wider-healthcare-team/roles-wider-healthcare-team/estates-services/tiler>

[roles/wider-healthcare-team/roles-wider-healthcare-team/estates-services/estates-technician](https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/doctors/roles-doctors/medicine/neurology) [6]
<https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/doctors/roles-doctors/medicine/neurology> [7]
<https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/doctors/roles-doctors/medicine/cardiology> [8]
<https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/doctors/roles-doctors/medicine/geriatric-medicine> [9]
<https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/doctors/roles-doctors/surgery/neurosurgery> [10]
<https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/doctors/roles-doctors/medicine/rehabilitation-medicine> [11]
<https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/doctors/roles-doctors/medicine/pharmaceutical-medicine> [12]
<https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/doctors/roles-doctors/medicine/clinical-pharmacology-and-therapeutics> [13]
<https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/doctors/roles-doctors/medicine/allergy> [14]
<https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/doctors/roles-doctors/medicine/dermatology> [15]
<https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/doctors/roles-doctors/medicine/sport-and-exercise-medicine>