

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.

- **Decontamination science (sterile services and flexible endoscopy)** ^[1]

Decontamination technicians (also known as sterile services technicians or [endoscopy](#) ^[2] technicians) ensure medical devices are properly cleaned, disinfected, and sterilized between clinical procedures to prevent healthcare-acquired infections

Training and qualifications required

For an apprenticeship in decontamination science (with training on the job), A-C grade GCSEs including English, Maths and Science at Grade C or above or an equivalent level 2 vocational qualification. To enter a technician role, you'll need the IDSc Technical Certificate or NVQ3 (Decontamination) or equivalent level of knowledge and experience through decontamination training.

Expected working hours and salary range

Staff in the NHS will usually work a standard 37.5 hours per week. They may work a shift pattern. Staff working as technicians in decontamination sciences/sterile services will be on a salary on AfC band 2 or 3, depending on their role. Managers will be on higher levels. Terms and conditions of service can vary for employers outside the NHS.

Desirable skills and values

Effective team member, ability to work accurately under pressure, have an eye for detail, knowledge of keyboard and computing skills, able to follow clear instructions and work to standard procedures, flexibility, professional manner and good communication skills.

Prospects

With further training and/or experience, you may be able to develop your career further and apply for vacancies as a senior endoscopy decontamination technician, decontamination technician supervisor or manager in a decontamination sciences department. Opportunities also exist in research and in teaching.

Related roles

- Clinical engineering [3]
- Operating department practitioner [4]
- Theatre nurse [5]
- Infection sciences [6]

• Patient Transport Service (PTS) call handler [7]

Patient Transport Service (PTS) call handlers have a key role in ensuring patients who are frail or vulnerable and have no other means of transport get to their healthcare appointments safely and on time.

Training and qualifications required

There are no set entry requirements to become a PTS call handler but employers expect good standards of literacy, numeracy and IT skills. Some may ask for qualifications such as GCSEs, NVQs or equivalent.

Expected working hours and salary range

Most jobs in the NHS are covered by the Agenda for Change (AfC) pay scales and call handlers are likely to be paid at band 2 or 3. PTS call handlers work standard hours of around 37.5 a week but you need to be prepared to work shifts between eight and 12 hours in length. You will be taking calls throughout this time, working on computer systems and using multiple screens. Shifts include evenings, weekends and bank holidays (including Christmas).

Desirable skills and values

A PTS call handler needs a range of skills including being able to talk to people at all levels, follow procedures, deal with people who may be angry or upset and good communication and IT skills.

Prospects

You could progress to become a senior call handler or team leader and with further experience you could become a duty manager, responsible for the call centre during a shift. You could look to move within the other call centres (NHS111 or 999) or train to become an emergency medical dispatcher/call handler, dealing with calls to the emergency ambulance service. You could undertake further training to become an emergency care assistant. With more experience and training, you could apply to train as a paramedic.

Related roles

- Ambulance care assistant and Patient Transport Service (PTS) driver [8]
- Call handler/emergency medical dispatcher [9]
- Emergency care assistant [10]
- Paramedic [11]

Links

[1] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/healthcare-science/roles-healthcare-science/physical-sciences-and-biomedical-engineering/decontamination-and-sterile-services> [2] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#Endoscopy> [3] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/Explore-roles/healthcare-science/roles-healthcare-science/physical-sciences-and-biomedical-engineering/clinical-engineering> [4] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/allied-health-professionals/roles-allied-health-professions/operating-department-practitioner> [5] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/nursing/roles-nursing/theatre-nurse> [6] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/healthcare-science/roles-healthcare-science/life-sciences/infection-sciences> [7] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/ambulance-service-team/roles-ambulance-service/patient-transport-service-pts-call-handler> [8] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/ambulance-service-team/roles-ambulance-service/ambulance-care-assistant-and-patient-transport-service-pts-driver> [9] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/ambulance-service-team/roles-ambulance-service/emergency-medical-dispatchercall-handler> [10] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/ambulance-service-team/roles-ambulance-service/emergency-care-assistant> [11] [https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/allied-health-professionals/roles-allied-health-professions/paramedic](https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/allied-health-professionals/roles-allied-health-professions/roles-allied-health-professions/paramedic)