

## 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.

### Dental hygienist [1]

Dental hygienists are an important part of the dental team, preventing dental problems in adults and children.

#### Training and qualifications required

To practise as a dental hygienist, you need to take an appropriate course - diploma or degree level - that is approved by the General Dental Council (GDC). Diploma courses take two years, full time. Once you've finished your course you will need to register with the GDC.

#### Expected working hours and salary range

Dental hygienists may be self employed or employed directly by a practice. Most dental hygienists in the NHS work standard hours, which are likely to be around 37.5 a week. Working hours vary in general practice. Dental hygienists may work some evenings or weekends. In the NHS your starting salary will be band 5 of the Agenda for Change pay rates.

#### Desirable skills and values

Good people skills are very important for dental hygienists and you will probably be the kind of person who enjoys a job with plenty of variety.

#### Prospects

Experienced dental hygienists can progress to become practice managers or teach on training courses. There are also opportunities to work as orthodontic therapists.

### Related roles

- Dental nurse [2]
  - Dental support worker [3]
  - Dentist [4]
  - Dental technician/dental technologist [5]
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### **Links**

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