

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.

- **Newborn hearing screener** ^[1]

Newborn hearing screeners help and support families with vital information about their babies' hearing.

Training and qualifications required

There are no set entry requirements for newborn hearing screeners. Employers expect a good standard of numeracy and literacy and may ask for GCSEs or equivalent and may ask for a nursery nursing or child-care related qualification, such as NNEB, BTEC or vocational qualification. Experience of working with children and families is advantageous as is experience of working with deaf people. This can be either or paid or voluntary work. You will be given the training you need for the job including how to use the equipment, health and safety and child protection. Newborn hearing screeners can join the British Society of Audiology (BSA) as associate members. The BSA offers conferences and meetings where hearing screeners can update their skills and network with others working in the field.

Expected working hours and salary range

As a newborn hearing screener you will typically be on Agenda for Change band 3. You may be able to apply for more senior positions at AfC band 4 - eg as an assistant practitioner, after further training and experience. Newborn hearing screeners work standard hours of around 37.5 a week. Some may work shifts, which could involve nights, 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 newborn hearing screener, you need to be happy to handle newborn babies, calm and reassuring, able to explain procedures to parents, willing to work with people from all walks of life, able to work as part of a team but use your own initiative, able to follow instructions and use equipment. You'll also need very good communication, customer care and organisational skills

Prospects

You could become a newborn screening coordinator, supervising and organising the work of a team of screeners. You could move into other jobs in the wider healthcare team or with the appropriate qualifications for entry to university, you could apply to train as a healthcare professional, such as a midwife or nurse or as an audiologist.

Related roles

- [Audiology](#) ^[2]
- [Knowledge and library services](#) ^[3]
- [Experienced paramedic](#) ^[4]
- [Emergency care assistant](#) ^[5]

• [Dental therapist](#) ^[6]

A dental therapist does some of the more straightforward work undertaken by a dentist.

Training and qualifications required

To practise as a dental therapist, you must obtain a degree or diploma in dental therapy and be registered on the General Dental Council's (CDG) roll of dental therapists. To get on the course, you will need five GCSE subjects at grade A to C, plus two A-levels or a recognised qualification in dental nursing. You may also be required to have some experience of dental nursing before taking the course.

Expected working hours and salary range

Most dental therapists work standard NHS hours, which are likely to be around 37.5 a week. Your starting salary will be band 5 of the Agenda for Change pay rates.

Desirable skills and values

You will need to develop highly technical clinical skills. Dental therapists will often spend valuable time encouraging anxious patients to accept dental treatment which requires patience, and excellent communication and interpersonal skills.

Prospects

Dental therapists with experience can progress to become orthodontic therapists or practice managers, or move into research or teaching roles. If you work in a dentist's practice, you will be able to work independently without the full responsibility of running the practice.

Related roles

- [Dental hygienist](#) ^[7]
- [Dental support worker](#) ^[8]
- [Dental nurse](#) ^[9]
- [Dental technician/dental technologist](#) ^[10]

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Links

^[1] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/wider-healthcare-team/roles-wider-healthcare-team/clinical-support-staff/newborn-hearing-screener> ^[2] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore->

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