

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 psychotherapist ^[1]

Adult psychotherapists work with adults to assess and treat a range of emotional, social or mental health issues.

Training and qualifications required

You'll need an undergraduate degree in a relevant subject and/or be a qualified and experienced healthcare practitioner. Training usually takes four years, combining study with clinical training. Clinical training includes treating individual patients under supervision.

Expected working hours and salary range

Most jobs in the NHS are covered by the Agenda for Change (AfC) pay scales. While training, you'll typically be paid at band 6. After completing your training, you'll be paid at band 7. Adult psychotherapists work full or part time. Terms and conditions can vary for employers outside of the NHS.

Desirable skills and values

You'll need a range of skills including a keen awareness of people and their behaviour, the ability to relate to a wide range of people and excellent communication skills. If you're applying for a role either directly in the NHS or in an organisation that provides NHS services, you'll be asked to show how you think the values of the NHS Constitution apply in your everyday work.

Prospects

As your professional experience and knowledge grows, you can move into more senior positions. There are opportunities to be involved in research and training people to become psychotherapists. As well as moving to more senior and specialised roles, you may also have the chance to take on additional responsibilities and progress within the organisation.

Related roles

- Art therapist/art psychotherapist ^[2]

- Mental health nurse [3]
- Psychological wellbeing practitioner [4]
- Assistant psychologist [5]

• Renal medicine [6]

Doctors in renal medicine (also known as nephrologists) diagnose and treat diseases of the kidneys.

Training and qualifications required

Training usually starts with a five year first degree in medicine followed by two year foundation doctor training, two year core medical training and three year specialist training (ST3-5). 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 doctor in renal 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

In 2021, there were 647 nephrologists working in the NHS in England. In 2020, there were 227 applications for 67 specialty training places. You could specialise or conduct research in areas such as haemodialysis, transplantation or academic nephrology, teach medical students or postgraduate students in training or get involved in research at universities, the NHS or private sector.

Related roles

- General internal medicine [7]
- Intensive care medicine [8]
- Rheumatology [9]
- Cardiologist [10]

• Assistant practitioner [11]

Assistant practitioners are experienced staff working in support roles, alongside registered healthcare professionals.

Training and qualifications required

To apply to train as an assistant practitioner, you have to be working in the NHS, often in a clinical support role such as healthcare assistant, dietetic assistant, maternity support worker, etc. As well as healthcare experience, trainee assistant practitioners have a relevant healthcare qualification at level 3, such as a BTEC, CACHE or Access to HE course. You'll be given the training you need for the job, including an introduction to the department and its procedures. You'll usually be expected to study part time for a foundation degree in health or social care and to keep your skills and knowledge up to date with regular training.

Expected working hours and salary range

Clinical support staff working in the NHS are paid on the Agenda for Change (AfC) pay system. As an assistant practitioner, you would usually be on AfC band 4. There are sometimes opportunities for trainee assistant practitioners at AfC band 3. You'll usually work standard hours of around 37.5 a week and 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 an assistant practitioner, you'll need to be caring and kind, physically strong for lifting and patients and equipment, willing to be hands-on with patients, able to follow instructions and procedures, able to work in a team but use their own initiative, able to explain procedures to patients, careful and methodical. You'll also need good communication skills, including listening, good organisational and observational skills.

Prospects

With experience and training you could become a senior assistant practitioner, supervising the work of other clinical support staff. With experience, and as long as you can demonstrate that you have the academic ability to study at degree level, you could apply to train as a healthcare professional such as a nurse, dietitian, physiotherapist, podiatrist, healthcare science practitioner, etc.

Related roles

- [Healthcare assistant](#) ^[12]
- [Healthcare science assistants and associates](#) ^[13]
- [Knowledge and library services](#) ^[14]
- [Experienced paramedic](#) ^[15]

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