A career for you in health

Caring, compassionate, committed
Make a difference with a career in health
There are more than 350 roles in health, and many of them are part of a wider team which works alongside medical and other professionals for the benefit of patients and the public.

This booklet is a handy guide to the roles in health. It is by no means a full list of professions or roles, but it gives you an idea of the number and variety of opportunities available, and information about where apprenticeships may be available. For a more comprehensive list of roles, visit www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles.

Some roles give you direct contact with patients, while in others you are part of a vast support network vital to delivering healthcare and preventing ill health. Some jobs are in hospitals, others are based in the community. Some require the highest academic standards, but, for many positions, employers are just looking for enthusiasm, keenness to learn and the ability to work as part of a team.

To apply for any role, either in the NHS or in an organisation that provides NHS services, or for a health-related course, you’ll need to show how you think the values of the NHS Constitution apply in your everyday work.

The NHS Constitution values are:

- Working together for patients
- Respect and dignity
- Commitment to quality of care
- Compassion
- Improving lives
- Everyone counts

Find out more about the NHS Constitution values at: www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/nhsconstitution
How to use this booklet

There are three ways to use this booklet, depending on what’s best for you.

1. We have organised the roles into thirteen categories or areas of work, and these are colour-coded. The categories are listed on page 6, with a brief description of the kinds of roles they include. Inside the booklet, you can use the colour coding to find a role in the category that interests you.

2. We have also provided an alphabetical list of the roles included in the booklet, organised in the same colour-coded categories: see the section Which jobs are included in this booklet? on pages 8-9.

3. At the back of the booklet there is a single alphabetical index of all roles included, with the relevant page number to help you find it. These are not organised by category.

The main content of the booklet is organised alphabetically and includes a snapshot of:

- a description of the role
- the minimum qualifications you need to perform the role
- the skills/qualities you need
- contact details to find out more about the role or others like it

Each role is colour-coded, according to the category or area of work it belongs to.

And look out for our apprenticeships logo for roles that may be available as an apprenticeship. New apprenticeships may have been approved since this booklet was published. For the latest information, explore each role page on our website www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles
Further information about careers in health

We hope this guide gives you a flavour of the many different jobs available in health.

Health Careers publishes a set of booklets with more detail about different jobs, such as entry requirements, training and development. The booklets also include real-life stories from people doing those jobs, and information about the route they took to get where they are now.

For a more comprehensive list of roles, visit: www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles

You can download the booklets from: www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/resources

Often there is more than one entry route to a career in health, so contact the Health Careers service to find out more.

[Contact details removed for privacy]

14-19 year old students can also visit www.stepintothcnhs.nhs.uk for brief information on a selected range of careers.

Job and apprenticeship vacancies

You can search for current health and related job opportunities and apprenticeships on a number of websites:

Job vacancies in the NHS can be found at: www.jobs.nhs.uk

Job vacancies in local government can be found at: www.lgjobs.com

Job vacancies in health and other sectors can be found at: www.gov.uk/jobsearch

Apprenticeships in the health sector can be found at: www.jobs.nhs.uk and www.getingofar.gov.uk/
## Areas of work

### Allied health professions (AHPs)
Allied health professionals provide treatment and help rehabilitate adults and children who are ill, have disabilities or special needs to live life as fully as possible. They often manage their own caseloads.

### Medical associate professions
Medical associate professionals provide patient care under the supervision of a doctor. This releases additional time for doctors to focus on more complex patient issues.

### Ambulance service
Ambulance service staff work for either the non-emergency service (which is responsible for the vast majority of patient transport) or the emergency service.

### Midwifery
Midwives work in communities and hospitals. Their role goes well beyond delivering babies; they provide antenatal and postnatal care, counselling, support and education to new parents.

### Health informatics
The experts on patient information that doctors, nurses and others rely on to provide the best possible care. These professionals also manage the computer systems that support the whole NHS.

### Nursing
Nurses work in hospitals and the community to treat and care for sick and injured adults and children, support their treatment and promote good health. As well as nursing patients with physical illnesses, they support those with mental health problems or learning disabilities.

### Pharmacy
Pharmacy staff use their knowledge of medicines to help people with every type of medical condition. They work in hospital dispensaries and wards, community and GP surgery pharmacies.

### Healthcare science
Healthcare science staff help prevent, diagnose and treat illness using their knowledge of science either through direct contact with patients or in a supporting role.

### Psychological therapies
Staff working in the psychological therapies help people cope with problems as diverse as drug or alcohol addiction, eating disorders, family breakdown or bereavement.

### Management
Health sector managers are responsible for the people, finances and provision of equipment, buildings and services the NHS needs to deliver healthcare effectively.

### Public health
Staff working in public health protect and improve the public’s health and wellbeing and reduce inequalities in health. In some roles, you will work directly with the public and in others contact may be occasional or rare.

### Medical and dental
Doctors diagnose and treat illnesses, working to prevent ill health and improve wellbeing. The dental team diagnoses and treats a wide range of problems affecting the mouth, teeth and gums, and work to promote and maintain dental health.

### Wider healthcare team (WHT)
Staff in the wider healthcare team provide the vital round-the-clock back-up operation that all health organisations need to keep them running.
## Which jobs are included?

The following jobs are described in this booklet, colour-coded according to the corresponding area of work in health.

These jobs, and some of the associated roles and specialisms, are also listed alphabetically in the index on page 46.

For a more comprehensive list of roles, visit: [www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles](http://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles)

### Allied health professions (AHPs)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Art, drama and music therapist</th>
<th>Dietitian</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Occupational therapist</td>
<td>Orthotist</td>
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<td>Operating department practitioner</td>
<td>Osteopath</td>
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<td>Orthoptist</td>
<td>Physiotherapist</td>
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<td>Podiatrist</td>
<td>Prosthetist</td>
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<td>Radiographer</td>
<td>Speech and language therapist</td>
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### Ambulance service

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<thead>
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<th>Ambulance care assistant</th>
<th>Call handler</th>
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<tr>
<td>Emergency care assistant</td>
<td>Emergency medical dispatcher</td>
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<tr>
<td>Experienced paramedic</td>
<td>Paramedic</td>
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<tr>
<td>Patient Transport Service call handler</td>
<td>(non-emergency call handler)</td>
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### Health informatics

- Clinical coder
- ICT support technician
- IT trainer
- Libraries and knowledge manager

### Healthcare science

- Biomedical scientist
- Clinical perfusion scientist
- Clinical photographer
- Clinical scientist – audiology
- Clinical scientist – biochemistry
- Clinical scientist – clinical engineering
- Clinical scientist – genomics
- Clinical scientist – medical physics
- Clinical scientist – microbiology
- Healthcare science associate – cervical cytology
- Healthcare science practitioner – respiratory physiology and sleep sciences

### Management

- Clinical manager
- Finance manager
- General manager
- Human resources manager
- Sterile services/decontamination services manager

### Medical and dental

- Dental hygienist
- Dental nurse
- Dental technician
- Dentist
- Doctor
- Emergency medicine doctor
- General practitioner
- Psychiatrist

### Medical associate professions

- Physician associate
- Surgical care practitioner

### Midwifery

- Midwife

### Nursing

- Nurse
- Nursing associate

### Pharmacy

- Pharmacist
- Pharmacy technician

### Psychological therapies

- High intensity therapist
- Psychologist
- Psychological wellbeing practitioner
- Psychotherapist

### Public health

- Environmental health professional
- Health trainer
- Public health practitioner

### Wider healthcare team (WHT)

- Architect
- Catering assistant
- Catering manager
- Cleaner
- Driver
- Gardener
- Healthcare science assistant – anatomical pathology
- Healthcare science assistant – phlebotomy
- Health play staff
- Health records clerk
- Housekeeper
- Laundry assistant
- Maintenance staff
- Maternity support worker
- Medical secretary
- NHS 111 service adviser
- Nursing healthcare assistant
- Personal assistant
- Porter
- Receptionist/telephonist
- Skilled trades staff
- Stores staff
- Therapy assistant
- Ward clerk
<table>
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<th>Description of Work</th>
<th>Minimum qualifications</th>
<th>Skills/Qualities</th>
<th>Contact details</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Ambulance care assistant</strong>&lt;br&gt;Ambulance care assistants transport patients to and from hospital and other care settings and are part of the non-emergency ambulance service.</td>
<td>A good general education and a clean driving licence are usually required. Recruitment is managed locally by individual ambulance trusts, and their requirements may vary slightly. A level 3 apprenticeship standard has been approved and may be available in your area.</td>
<td>You need to be physically fit to enable you to lift, move and drive people, many of whom are frail, in safety and comfort. You need to be responsible, patient and keep a cool head in a crisis.</td>
<td>Contact your nearest ambulance service trust. Visit <a href="http://www.nhs.uk">www.nhs.uk</a> and search for vacancies on <a href="http://www.jobs.nhs.uk">www.jobs.nhs.uk</a></td>
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<td><strong>Architect</strong>&lt;br&gt;Architects design and oversee the construction of NHS buildings and the spaces in and around them. They also help with the restoration and re-use of old or existing buildings, many of which are listed.</td>
<td>To become a registered architect (with the Architects Registration Board) you will need to undertake seven years of study and professional practice, with a final exam. Almost all subjects learned at school are relevant to architecture, so choose the subjects you are strongest in. To train, typically you will need at least two subjects at A-level or one A- and two AS-levels. Many architecture schools also accept BTEC National Diploma and other qualifications at level 3.</td>
<td>Although it is not necessary to study art, you should have an aptitude for drawing freehand and making models and collages. You will need an interest in design and construction, and have a creative outlook.</td>
<td>Royal Institute of British Architects&lt;br&gt;Tel: 020 7580 5533&lt;br&gt;Email: <a href="mailto:info@inst.riba.org">info@inst.riba.org</a>&lt;br&gt;www.architecture.com</td>
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<td><strong>Art, drama and music therapist</strong>&lt;br&gt;Arts therapists use the creative arts – art, drama or music – to help patients with physical, mental or emotional difficulties express themselves. Through these creative mediums, they help patients with their recovery and overall wellbeing.</td>
<td>To become an arts therapist, you will need to be a graduate in order to take a postgraduate diploma/masters programme approved by the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC). These can be achieved through either full or part-time study. Professionals, such as teachers or psychologists who have a commitment to the visual arts, may also be considered to train as arts therapists.</td>
<td>You need to be accomplished in music, art or drama and be able to relate well to patients with a range of physical, psychological and emotional challenges.</td>
<td>British Association of Art Therapists&lt;br&gt;Tel: 020 7686 4216&lt;br&gt;Email: <a href="mailto:info@baat.org">info@baat.org</a>&lt;br&gt;www.baat.org&lt;br&gt;British Association of Dramatherapists&lt;br&gt;Tel: 01242 235515&lt;br&gt;Email: <a href="mailto:info@badth.org.uk">info@badth.org.uk</a>&lt;br&gt;www.badth.org.uk&lt;br&gt;British Association for Music Therapy&lt;br&gt;Tel: 020 7837 6100&lt;br&gt;Email: <a href="mailto:info@bamt.org">info@bamt.org</a>&lt;br&gt;www.bamt.org&lt;br&gt;Health and Care Professions Council&lt;br&gt;Tel: 0300 500 6184&lt;br&gt;www.hcpc-uk.org</td>
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<td><strong>Biomedical scientist</strong>&lt;br&gt;Biomedical scientists investigate samples of body tissue and fluids to enable doctors to diagnose and plan patients’ treatment. From cancer screening to blood transfusion and infection control, they are a vital part of the healthcare team.</td>
<td>Either an accredited integrated three-year full-time BSc Healthcare Science (life sciences – where blood sciences, cellular sciences and infection sciences can be taken as an option) or a biomedical science degree followed by a postgraduate qualification, leading to eligibility to apply for registration with the Health and Care Professions Council.</td>
<td>You need to be accurate and efficient. You need to have excellent attention to detail, to be a clear communicator and work well in a team.</td>
<td>Health and Care Professions Council&lt;br&gt;Tel: 0300 500 6184&lt;br&gt;www.hcpc-uk.org&lt;br&gt;Institute of Biomedical Science&lt;br&gt;Tel: 020 7713 0214&lt;br&gt;Email: <a href="mailto:mail@ibms.org">mail@ibms.org</a>&lt;br&gt;www.ibms.org</td>
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<td><strong>Call handler</strong>&lt;sup&gt;A&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>In-service training, but most employers ask for a good general education. A level 3 apprenticeship standard has been approved and may be available in your area.</td>
<td>You will need to remain calm in pressurised situations so you can get essential information from a caller quickly and accurately and help to reassure them.</td>
<td>Visit <a href="http://www.nhs.uk">www.nhs.uk</a> and search for vacancies on <a href="http://www.jobs.nhs.uk">www.jobs.nhs.uk</a></td>
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<td><strong>Catering assistant</strong>&lt;sup&gt;A&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Trusts’ requirements vary, but a foundation course in food hygiene may be an advantage. A good standard of literacy and numeracy is usually needed. Apprenticeships in catering and related roles are sometimes available. See page 5 for general information about searching and applying for apprenticeships.</td>
<td>You will need to be able to work as part of a busy team in a fast-moving environment, have excellent personal hygiene and a courteous manner when you come into contact with patients.</td>
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<td><strong>Catering manager</strong>&lt;sup&gt;&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Relevant degree, HND/BTEC or the equivalent qualification from the Institute of Hospitality.</td>
<td>You will need to be an enthusiastic team leader who can motivate staff and manage budgets.</td>
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<td><strong>Cleaner</strong>&lt;sup&gt;&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>On-the-job training in the safe use of cleaning products and equipment. A good standard of literacy and numeracy is usually needed.</td>
<td>You need to be hard-working, conscientious and able to work unsupervised.</td>
<td>Contact your nearest NHS healthcare provider. Visit <a href="http://www.nhs.uk">www.nhs.uk</a> and search for vacancies on <a href="http://www.jobs.nhs.uk">www.jobs.nhs.uk</a></td>
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<td><strong>Clinical coder</strong>&lt;sup&gt;&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>No formal requirements, but a good general education is needed, including GCSE maths and English or equivalent, and candidates need to be reasonably familiar with computers. On-the-job training is provided and candidates can eventually take the Clinical Coders Foundation Course. With experience, candidates can apply for the National Clinical Coding Qualification.</td>
<td>You need to be accurate and able to extract information quickly from medical notes. An enquiring mind and enjoyment of medical matters will help, and you need to be able to sit at a computer and concentrate for long periods of time.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.ihrim.co.uk">Institute of Health Record Information and Management</a> Tel: 01773 713 927 Email: <a href="mailto:ihrim@zen.co.uk">ihrim@zen.co.uk</a> <a href="http://www.ihrim.co.uk">www.ihrim.co.uk</a></td>
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<td><strong>Clinical manager</strong></td>
<td>You’ll usually need to be a qualified and registered healthcare professional (such as a nurse, allied health professional, midwife or doctor) to enter a career in clinical management. There may be a requirement for you to have training or experience in relevant areas such as clinical audit or clinical governance.</td>
<td>Able to challenge the way things are and find better alternatives, a commitment to the ideals of quality and fairness in delivering healthcare, a willingness to work with others and respect their views, good organisational and communication skills.</td>
<td>Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership Ltd <a href="http://www.hqip.org.uk">www.hqip.org.uk</a>/ NHS Leadership Academy <a href="http://www.leadershipacademy.nhs.uk">www.leadershipacademy.nhs.uk</a>/ The Institute of Healthcare Management <a href="http://www.ihm.org.uk">www.ihm.org.uk</a>/</td>
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<td><strong>Clinical perfusion scientist</strong></td>
<td>Training is a mixture of practical experience and academic study leading to a postgraduate qualification in perfusion science gained on a block-release basis. Applicants will need a relevant degree for entry onto this training.</td>
<td>You will need an enthusiasm for, and ability in, science. You will also need to be a calm and patient person, as open-heart surgery is lengthy and intricate.</td>
<td>Society of Clinical Perfusion Scientists of Great Britain and Ireland Tel: 020 7869 6891 Email: <a href="mailto:admin@scps.org.uk">admin@scps.org.uk</a> <a href="http://www.scps.org.uk">www.scps.org.uk</a></td>
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<td><strong>Clinical photographer</strong></td>
<td>A degree in photography and a postgraduate certificate in clinical photography (usually taken on a distance learning basis while working in a post as a trainee medical illustrator) is needed and then register with the Committee for the Accreditation of Medical Illustration Practitioners (CAMIP). Graphic designers can also do a postgraduate certificate in graphic design for health.</td>
<td>You need an understanding of anatomy, as well as technical expertise and innovative artistic skills. You will be a good communicator, capable of being both sympathetic and professional when dealing with patients and their families, and you will be willing to accept high levels of responsibility.</td>
<td>Institute of Medical Illustrators Tel: 020 7837 2846 Email: <a href="mailto:info@imi.org.uk">info@imi.org.uk</a> <a href="http://www.imi.org.uk">www.imi.org.uk</a></td>
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<td><strong>Clinical scientist – audiology</strong></td>
<td>A relevant science degree followed by a three-year post under the NHS Scientist Training Programme, which includes studying towards an accredited Master’s qualification in clinical science.</td>
<td>You need to be good at problem solving and a good communicator. You need to combine an analytical approach with a caring and understanding attitude.</td>
<td>British Academy of Audiology Tel: 01625 290 046 Email: <a href="mailto:admin@baaudiology.org">admin@baaudiology.org</a> <a href="http://www.baaudiology.org">www.baaudiology.org</a></td>
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<td><strong>Clinical scientist – biochemistry</strong></td>
<td>A relevant science degree followed by a three-year post under the NHS Scientist Training Programme, which includes studying towards an accredited Master’s qualification in clinical science.</td>
<td>You are expected to bring a major scientific and innovative approach to the service. You must have manual dexterity to be able to carry out complex chemical and biochemical analyses, to plan and organise your laboratory work and cooperate well with the clinicians you are advising.</td>
<td>The Association for Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine Tel: 020 7403 8001 <a href="http://www.acb.org.uk">www.acb.org.uk</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Clinical scientist – clinical engineering
Clinical scientists working in clinical engineering design and test the tools and equipment that medical specialists use to diagnose, treat and rehabilitate patients. These include the latest techniques in healthcare, such as keyhole and robotic surgery, laser equipment or electronic aids.

**Description of Work**
Clinical scientists working in clinical engineering design and test the tools and equipment that medical specialists use to diagnose, treat and rehabilitate patients. These include the latest techniques in healthcare, such as keyhole and robotic surgery, laser equipment or electronic aids.

**Minimum qualifications**
A relevant science or engineering degree followed by a three-year post under the NHS Scientist Training Programme, which includes studying towards an accredited Master’s qualification in clinical science.

**Skills/Qualities**
As well as your engineering skills, you must be able to work with patients and a range of staff, including technicians, doctors and equipment manufacturers. You will have to keep up with fast-moving research and develop your own design, workshop and management skills.

**Contact details**
- Institute of Physics and Engineering in Medicine (IPEM)
  - Tel: 01904 610821
  - Email: office@ipem.ac.uk
  - www.ipem.ac.uk

### Clinical scientist – genomics
Clinical scientists working in genomics, examine samples of patients’ nucleic acid (DNA or RNA (Ribonucleic acid)) to identify genetic and genomic alterations that may be responsible for inherited and acquired diseases or conditions, such as cystic fibrosis or cancer.

**Description of Work**
Clinical scientists working in genomics, examine samples of patients’ nucleic acid (DNA or RNA (Ribonucleic acid)) to identify genetic and genomic alterations that may be responsible for inherited and acquired diseases or conditions, such as cystic fibrosis or cancer.

**Minimum qualifications**
A relevant science degree followed by a three-year post under the NHS Scientist Training Programme, which includes studying towards an accredited Master’s qualification in clinical science.

**Skills/Qualities**
You will need an interest in science and technology, an ability to update and test your knowledge against experience, comfortable with modern technology and complex equipment, able to pay meticulous attention to detail and able to work as part of a team.

**Contact details**
- Clinical Genetics Society
  - www.clingensoc.org/
- National School of Healthcare Science
  - www.nshcs.hee.nhs.uk/

### Clinical scientist – medical physics
Clinical scientists working in medical physics are closely involved in assessing and treating illness and disability through the use of ultrasound, x-ray, radiotherapy, light, infrared and radio frequency radiation.

**Description of Work**
Clinical scientists working in medical physics are closely involved in assessing and treating illness and disability through the use of ultrasound, x-ray, radiotherapy, light, infrared and radio frequency radiation.

**Minimum qualifications**
A relevant science or engineering degree, followed by a three-year post under the NHS Scientist Training Programme, which includes studying towards an accredited Master’s qualification in clinical science.

**Skills/Qualities**
You will need a strong aptitude for science as well as the ability to communicate with doctors and patients alike.

**Contact details**
- Institute of Physics and Engineering in Medicine
  - Tel: 01904 610821
  - Email: office@ipem.ac.uk
  - www.ipem.ac.uk

### Clinical scientist – microbiology
Clinical scientists working in microbiology identify bacterial, viral, fungal and parasitic infections to help prevent epidemics and help doctors diagnose and treat their patients. They also develop better tests to diagnose infectious diseases.

**Description of Work**
Clinical scientists working in microbiology identify bacterial, viral, fungal and parasitic infections to help prevent epidemics and help doctors diagnose and treat their patients. They also develop better tests to diagnose infectious diseases.

**Minimum qualifications**
A relevant science degree, followed by a three-year post under the NHS Scientist Training Programme, which includes studying towards an accredited Master’s qualification in clinical science.

**Skills/Qualities**
You need to combine a high-level scientific approach with good communication skills and the ability to provide a fast, effective service to help doctors treat and manage patients.

**Contact details**
- The Association for Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine Microbiology Group
  - www.acb.org.uk
### Description of Work

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dental Hygienist and Dental Therapist</th>
<th>Dental Nurse</th>
<th>Dental Technician</th>
<th>Dentist</th>
<th>Dietitian</th>
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<tr>
<td>Dental hygienists work to keep teeth and gums healthy, including scaling and polishing patients’ teeth. Dental therapists carry out simple treatments such as fillings and extractions, usually for children, older people and those with special needs. Both hygienists and therapists promote oral health, teaching people about dental hygiene.</td>
<td>Dental nurses assist dentists, passing instruments, mixing materials and taking notes, and help look after patients during treatment.</td>
<td>Dental technicians make dental appliances, such as crowns, bridges and dentures, to a dentist’s or doctor’s instructions.</td>
<td>Dentists lead the dental care team. They diagnose problems, identify treatments, carry out dental surgery and advise patients. Some are based in high street practices, others work in hospital or community settings.</td>
<td>Dietitians translate the science of nutrition into advice about food. They promote good health by working with people who have special dietary needs, inform the public and educate health professionals.</td>
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### Minimum qualifications

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<td>Hygienists and therapists must register with the General Dental Council (GDC) to practise and applicants will need a GDC-approved qualification. These are offered at degree and diploma level in dental hygiene and/or dental therapy and oral health sciences. Candidates need five good grade GCSEs (or equivalent qualifications) to get onto a course, including English and one science, and either two A-levels, or a recognised dental nursing qualification.</td>
<td>Dental nurses must register with the General Dental Council. There are several routes to registration and candidates will usually need some GCSEs for part-time courses, and may need A-levels or other qualifications at level 3 for some full-time courses. Apprenticeships in dental nursing are sometimes available. See page 5 for general information about searching and applying for apprenticeships.</td>
<td>Five good grade GCSEs or equivalent and either two A-levels or a nationally-recognised dental nursing qualification. Dental therapists must register with the General Dental Council (GDC). To do so, you need a GDC-approved diploma or degree in dental therapy or dental therapy and hygiene.</td>
<td>Three high grade A-levels (including chemistry), or an equivalent level of qualification are needed to enter an approved dental surgery degree. Some dental schools run a pre-dental year for applicants with non-science subjects and a small number of graduate entry courses are also available. Dentists must register with the General Dental Council.</td>
<td>Dietitians must register with the Health and Care Professions Council. To do so, they need an approved qualification in dietetics at BSc level, or a first degree in a relevant subject plus an approved postgraduate qualification in dietetics.</td>
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### Skills/Qualities

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<tr>
<td>You need to be manually dextrous, with good eyesight and colour vision. You are in direct contact with patients, so good communication skills and a friendly manner are essential.</td>
<td>You need to be able to respond quickly to a dentist’s requests, and to handle intricate instruments and mix small amounts of material accurately. A sympathetic manner is essential.</td>
<td>You need to be able to work with great precision, and have technical, manual and artistic ability. You need good eyesight, to be meticulous and work well within a team.</td>
<td>You need to be confident, with high academic standards and good manual dexterity. You will need to develop excellent diagnostic, clinical and social skills.</td>
<td>You need to have an interest in science and food and be able to communicate with people from all parts of the community. You need to be able to explain complex issues simply.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Contact details

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>British Society of Dental Hygiene and Therapy</th>
<th>British Association of Dental Nurses</th>
<th>British Association of Clinical Dental Technology</th>
<th>British Dental Association</th>
<th>British Dietetic Association</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tel: 01788 575050 Email: <a href="mailto:enquiries@bsdht.org.uk">enquiries@bsdht.org.uk</a> wwwbsdht.org.uk</td>
<td>Tel: 01253 338 360 Email: <a href="mailto:admin@badn.org.uk">admin@badn.org.uk</a> wwwbadn.org.uk</td>
<td>Tel: 01159 575 370 Dental Technologists Association Tel: 01452 886 366 wwwdta-uk.org</td>
<td>Tel: 020 7935 0875 Email: <a href="mailto:enquiries@bda.org">enquiries@bda.org</a> wwwbda.org</td>
<td>Tel: 0121 200 8080 Email: <a href="mailto:info@bda.uk.com">info@bda.uk.com</a> wwww.bda.uk.com</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Dental Council Tel: 020 7167 6000 wwwgdc-uk.org</td>
<td>General Dental Council Tel: 020 7167 6000 wwwgdc-uk.org</td>
<td>wwwgdc-uk.org</td>
<td>General Dental Council Tel: 020 7167 6000 wwwgdc-uk.org</td>
<td>Health and Care Professions Council Tel: 0300 500 6184 wwwhcpc-uk.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description of Work</td>
<td>Minimum qualifications</td>
<td>Skills/Qualities</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Doctor</strong>&lt;br&gt;There are more than 60 different specialties that doctors can work in. These include emergency medicine, general practice, psychiatry (see separate entries for these), radiology, obstetrics and gynaecology, pathology, anaesthetics, paediatrics and surgery, and medical specialties including dermatology, gastroenterology, nuclear medicine, rehabilitation and neurology.</td>
<td>High academic standards are essential to enter medical school. A wide range of high grade GCSEs, plus 3 A-levels or equivalent (usually including chemistry and another science or maths) are typically required. Applicants with non-science A-levels/equivalent can apply for medical degrees with a pre-medical year and there are also accelerated graduate entry degrees. After medical school, there are two further stages – foundation training, then specialty training in their chosen specialty.</td>
<td>You’ll be part of a team in whichever specialty you work in. You’ll need a host of skills including being good at analysing and reasoning, time management, leadership, excellent communication skills, an enquiring mind, a rational approach and the ability to handle pressure.</td>
<td>British Medical Association&lt;br&gt;<a href="http://www.bma.org.uk">www.bma.org.uk</a>&lt;br&gt;General Medical Council&lt;br&gt;<a href="http://www.gmc-uk.org">www.gmc-uk.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Driver</strong>&lt;br&gt;Drivers are employed in a range of roles across healthcare, such as in the non-emergency ambulance service and NHS Blood and Transplant. They transport patient supplies, pathology specimens or even organs for transplantation.</td>
<td>An appropriate driving licence, depending on the type of vehicle applicants are required to drive.</td>
<td>You must be a responsible, safe driver, able to communicate easily with staff, patients and others you come into contact with, and able to work unsupervised.</td>
<td>Contact your nearest NHS healthcare provider. Visit <a href="http://www.nhs.uk">www.nhs.uk</a> and search for vacancies on <a href="http://www.jobs.nhs.uk">www.jobs.nhs.uk</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Emergency care assistant A</strong>&lt;br&gt;Emergency care assistants are often the first healthcare professionals on the scene of an accident. They work alongside paramedics to treat and stabilise patients before taking them to hospital.</td>
<td>A good general education and clean driving licence is usually required. Recruitment is managed locally by individual ambulance services, and their requirements may vary slightly.</td>
<td>You need to be quick-thinking and decisive, but also provide a calm and reassuring environment to patients and relatives.</td>
<td>Contact your nearest ambulance service trust. Visit <a href="http://www.nhs.uk">www.nhs.uk</a> for details and search for vacancies on <a href="http://www.jobs.nhs.uk">www.jobs.nhs.uk</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Emergency medical dispatcher A</strong>&lt;br&gt;Emergency medical dispatchers are responsible for sending an emergency vehicle to an incident as quickly, and with as much information, as possible.</td>
<td>In-service training will be provided and most employers ask for a good general education. A level 3 apprenticeship standard has been approved and may be available in your area.</td>
<td>You will need a calm, efficient approach in what might be life or death situations. Good communication skills are required.</td>
<td>Contact your nearest ambulance service trust. Visit <a href="http://www.nhs.uk">www.nhs.uk</a> for details and search for vacancies on <a href="http://www.jobs.nhs.uk">www.jobs.nhs.uk</a></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Emergency medicine doctor</strong>&lt;br&gt;Doctors specialising in emergency medicine carry out the immediate assessment and treatment of patients with serious and life-threatening illnesses and injuries.</td>
<td>High academic standards are essential to enter medical school. A wide range of high grade GCSEs, plus 3 A-levels or equivalent (usually including chemistry and another science or maths) are typically required. Applicants with non-science A-levels/equivalent can apply for medical degrees with a pre-medical year and there are also accelerated graduate entry degrees. After medical school, there are two further stages – foundation training, then specialty training in emergency medicine.</td>
<td>You need to be able to make decisions quickly and be able to stay calm in a pressured environment. You’ll need to pay great attention to detail, be resilient, and have excellent communication and teamwork skills.</td>
<td>Royal College of Emergency Medicine&lt;br&gt;<a href="http://www.rcem.ac.uk">www.rcem.ac.uk</a>&lt;br&gt;General Medical Council&lt;br&gt;<a href="http://www.gmc-uk.org">www.gmc-uk.org</a></td>
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</table>
## Description of Work

### Environmental health professional

Environmental health professionals improve the public’s health and wellbeing through their work in areas including noise and environmental pollution, food safety and hygiene, workplace health and housing standards.

### Experienced paramedic

Experienced paramedics with additional skills and qualifications develop into other roles where they carry out more treatments and take on more responsibility. Senior roles include Hazardous Area Response Team (HART) paramedic, specialist paramedic, advanced paramedic and consultant paramedic.

### Finance manager

Finance managers are responsible for ensuring that NHS funds are appropriately allocated and accounted for. They work on payroll, pensions, financial reports and auditing.

### Gardener

Gardeners look after the plants, shrubs and lawns at healthcare organisations.

### General manager

General managers perform a vital role, ensuring that a hospital, service, or department is run efficiently and that patients are receiving the best possible care.

## Minimum qualifications

### Environmental health professional

There are different roles at different levels. For example, GCSEs and relevant experience could lead into an entry level role (such as an enforcement officer). An accredited degree in environmental health is required to work as an environmental health practitioner.

### Experienced paramedic

Experienced paramedics in one of these roles are qualified paramedics who have had extensive training leading to a higher education qualification. See page 34 for information about becoming a paramedic and information about the qualifications required.

### Finance manager

NHS administrative and clerical staff may have the opportunity to work towards qualifications awarded by the Association of Accounting Technicians, or those recognised by the Consultancy Committee of Accountancy Bodies. The NHS Graduate Management Training Scheme also has a finance option, offering opportunities to train for very senior roles.

### Gardener

Different organisations will have different entry requirements. If applicants don’t already have a relevant vocational qualification (eg horticulture), they may be able to get a post on the basis of experience or proven ability. Apprenticeships are sometimes available. See page 5 for general information about searching and applying for apprenticeships.

### General manager

Existing healthcare staff with appropriate experience are encouraged to apply for vacancies. The NHS Graduate Management Training Scheme also has a general management option, offering opportunities to train for very senior roles.

## Skills/Qualities

### Environmental health professional

You will need to be flexible, aware of customer care principles, tactful and diplomatic, able to analyse problems and make recommendations.

### Experienced paramedic

You will need to be confident in highly-pressurised situations, able to calm confused and distressed patients and their families, and build up a rapport with those suffering long-term conditions.

### Finance manager

You will need excellent mathematical skills, a methodical mind and an eye for detail.

### Gardener

You need to enjoy working outdoors, be enthusiastic about plants and capable of doing physical work.

### General manager

You will need excellent organisational, communication and negotiating skills. You will be a confident public speaker and able to work with people from all backgrounds including patients, clinicians and the press.

## Contact details

### Environmental health professional

- Chartered Institute of Environmental Health (CIEH) (England)  
  [www.cieh.org](http://www.cieh.org)
- CIEH Northern Ireland  
  [www.cieh-nireland.org](http://www.cieh-nireland.org)
- Royal Environmental Health Institute of Scotland  
  [www.rehis.com](http://www.rehis.com)
- CIEH Wales  
  [www.cieh-cymruwales.org](http://www.cieh-cymruwales.org)

### Experienced paramedic

- Contact your nearest ambulance service trust.  
  Visit [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk) for details.
- College of Paramedics  
  [www.collegeofparamedics.co.uk](http://www.collegeofparamedics.co.uk)

### Finance manager

- Association of Accounting Technicians  
  Tel: 0845 863 0800  
  Email: [aat@aat.org.uk](mailto:aat@aat.org.uk)  
  [www.aat.org.uk](http://www.aat.org.uk)
- NHS Graduate Management Training Scheme  
  [www.nhsgraduates.co.uk](http://www.nhsgraduates.co.uk)
- Consultancy Committee of Accountancy Bodies  
  [www.ccab.org.uk](http://www.ccab.org.uk)

### Gardener

- Contact your nearest NHS healthcare provider.  
  Visit [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk) and search for vacancies on [www.jobs.nhs.uk](http://www.jobs.nhs.uk)

### General manager

- NHS Graduate Management Training Scheme  
  [www.nhsgraduates.co.uk](http://www.nhsgraduates.co.uk)
### Description of Work

#### Doctor

**General practitioner**

General practitioners (GPs) are the first point of contact with the healthcare system for most patients. GPs treat all common medical conditions and refer patients to hospitals and other medical services for urgent and specialist treatment. GPs’ work is very varied.

#### Health play staff

Play staff organise daily play and art activities in the ward playroom or at the bedside to help children reach developmental milestones and overcome anxiety. They support families and contribute to clinical judgments through their play-based observations.

#### Health records clerk

Health records or medical records clerks organise, retrieve and store patients’ medical records so they can be used by healthcare professionals for their care, for example, in outpatient clinics.

#### Health trainer

Health trainers offer practical support to their clients to change their behaviour and achieve their own health goals.

### Minimum qualifications

#### Doctor

High academic standards are essential to enter medical school. A wide range of high grade GCSEs, plus 3 A-levels or equivalent (usually including chemistry and another science or maths) are typically required. Applicants with non-science A-levels/equivalent can apply for medical degrees with a pre-medical year and there are also accelerated graduate entry degrees. After medical school, there are two further stages – foundation training, then specialty training in general practice.

#### Health play staff

Health play assistants will usually need a professional childcare qualification at level 3. A basic grade health play specialist will need to have taken the foundation degree in healthcare play specialist. Relevant experience is often a prerequisite. Senior health play staff will usually need to hold a foundation degree in healthcare play specialist, and have undertaken training in child protection. They may also be required to have relevant post-qualifying experience.

#### Health records clerk

No formal qualifications are needed, although applicants are likely to need computing skills and a good general education. Apprenticeships in administration are often available. See page 5 for general information about searching and applying for apprenticeships.

### Skills/Qualities

#### Doctor

Different doctors bring different skills to the team. Important skills for a GP include an enquiring mind, concern for people, a rational approach, the ability to work in teams, and being an expert generalist with extensive knowledge of a wide range of conditions.

#### Health play staff

You must be comfortable and confident with children, and be able to create a relaxed and fun environment, appropriate to the individual child’s needs.

#### Health records clerk

You need to be able to stay calm under pressure, be good with people and have the ability to maintain strict confidentiality.

#### Health trainer

You’ll need good verbal and written communication skills, empathy, respect, tact, a persuasive, reassuring, supportive and motivating approach, respect for client confidentiality and the ability to work both independently and as part of a team.

### Contact details

#### Doctor

Royal College of General Practitioners  
[www.rcgp.org.uk](http://www.rcgp.org.uk)

General Medical Council  
[www.gmc-uk.org](http://www.gmc-uk.org)

#### Health play staff

Healthcare Play Specialist Education Trust  
[www.hpset.org.uk](http://www.hpset.org.uk)

National Association of Health Play Specialists (NAHPS)  
[www.nahps.org.uk](http://www.nahps.org.uk)

#### Health records clerk

Institute of Health Record and Information Management  
Tel: 01773 713 927  
Email: ihrim@zen.co.uk  
[www.ihrim.co.uk](http://www.ihrim.co.uk)

#### Health trainer

City and Guilds  
[www.cityandguilds.com](http://www.cityandguilds.com)  
Royal Society for Public Health  
[www.rsph.org.uk](http://www.rsph.org.uk)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description of Work</th>
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<th>Skills/Qualities</th>
<th>Contact details</th>
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</table>
| **Healthcare science assistant – anatomical pathology**  
Healthcare science assistants working in anatomical pathology assist the pathologist to examine patients who have died and identify the cause of death. They also support bereaved relatives. | Hospitals will ask for a good general education of at least five good grade GCSEs in science (ideally biology), maths and English. Some employers may ask for A-levels. Applicants can apply directly for jobs and then train for a three year diploma in anatomical pathology. | You will need to be efficient, mature and have a genuine curiosity about how the human body works. You need to work well with a range of people, such as police officers and medical staff, and deal sensitively with grieving relatives. | Association of Anatomical Pathology Technologists  
Tel: 020 7278 2151  
Email: mail@aaptuk.org  
www.aaptuk.org |
| **Healthcare science assistant – phlebotomy**  
Healthcare science assistants working in phlebotomy collect blood from patients for examination in a laboratory, providing vital pointers for diagnosing illness. | Six months’ training on the job, leading to a certificate of competence. There are no formal requirements, but employers usually look for a minimum of two GCSEs or equivalent. Apprenticeships in healthcare science are sometimes available. See page 5 for general information about searching and applying for apprenticeships. | You will need a steady hand and a calm manner. You need to be able to reassure patients of all ages, many of whom may be nervous or distressed, and handle information with tact and discretion. | National Association of Phlebotomists  
Tel: 020 7833 8784  
Email: phlebotomy@btinternet.com  
www.phlebotomy.org  
Search for trainee phlebotomist vacancies on www.jobs.nhs.uk |
| **Healthcare science associate practitioner – cervical cytology**  
Healthcare science associate practitioners working in cervical cytology examine cervical samples under a microscope to detect early signs of cancer in women. | No formal requirements, but a good range of GCSEs is an advantage. Other qualifications may be considered. Applicants for these posts train on the job and sit for the Certificate in Cytology to become a qualified cervical cytology screener. | You will need patience, concentration and the ability to sit at a microscope for periods of time. You will be supervised by biomedical scientists, but you are responsible for the accuracy of your work. | British Association for Cytopathology  
Tel: 020 7278 6907  
www.britishcytology.org.uk  
Search for trainee phlebotomist vacancies on www.jobs.nhs.uk |
| **Healthcare science practitioner – respiratory physiology and sleep sciences**  
Healthcare science practitioners working in respiratory physiology and sleep sciences use highly-specialised equipment to test lung function in patients experiencing chest pains or breathing difficulties, as well as those suffering with sleep disorders or who have had abnormal chest x-rays. | An accredited three year full-time BSc (Hons) Healthcare Science in physiological sciences and sleep sciences. A degree apprenticeship standard in healthcare science has been approved and may be available in your area. | You will need the confidence to handle both complicated equipment and nervous patients. Good communication skills are important. | Association for Respiratory Technology and Physiology  
Email: admin@artp.org.uk  
Tel: 0845 226 3062  
www.artp.org.uk |
| **High intensity therapist**  
High intensity therapists work with clients with a range of complex problems related to anxiety and depression. They use cognitive behavioural therapy in their work. | To train, applicants first need to secure a position as a trainee high intensity therapist. To apply, they usually need to be a registered nurse, social worker, clinical psychologist or occupational therapist. | You need to show sensitivity and understanding and be able to explain the treatment you are providing. You’ll need excellent communication skills. | British Association of Behavioural and Cognitive Psychotherapies  
www.babcp.com/Default.aspx  
Improving Access to Psychological Therapies  
www.england.nhs.uk/mental-health/adults/iapt/# |
<table>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Wider healthcare team</strong></th>
<th><strong>Description of Work</strong></th>
<th><strong>Minimum qualifications</strong></th>
<th><strong>Skills/Qualities</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Housekeeper</strong></td>
<td>Housekeepers help senior nurses run hospital wards by coordinating a range of ward services including: cleaning, catering, clerical, transport and linen.</td>
<td>There are no minimum entry requirements, but a good general standard of education and some experience of hotel and catering services may help.</td>
<td>You need to work well as part of a team. You’ll need to supervise staff and ensure high standards are maintained.</td>
<td>Contact your nearest NHS healthcare provider. Visit <a href="http://www.nhs.uk">www.nhs.uk</a> and search for vacancies on <a href="http://www.jobs.nhs.uk">www.jobs.nhs.uk</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Human resources manager</strong></td>
<td>HR managers are responsible for the recruitment, selection, appraisal, development and training of staff. They are also responsible for implementing employment legislation and for the welfare of employees.</td>
<td>Many people enter HR management from an administrative or clerical role within the NHS; applications from these staff are particularly welcome. The NHS Graduate Management Training Scheme also has a human resources management option, offering opportunities to train for very senior roles.</td>
<td>You will need good communication, time-management and organisational skills, be able to work under pressure and be assertive. You must, above all, want to work with people.</td>
<td>NHS Graduate Management Training Scheme <a href="http://www.nhsgraduates.co.uk">www.nhsgraduates.co.uk</a> Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development Tel: 020 8612 6208 <a href="http://www.cipd.co.uk">www.cipd.co.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ICT support technician</strong></td>
<td>ICT support technicians work as part of the health informatics team, diagnosing and fixing computer faults and installing PCs.</td>
<td>A degree in a relevant subject (eg ICT) or equivalent experience. A customer service qualification at QCF level 3 or equivalent experience may also be required. To do the job, candidates will usually be trained in Microsoft desktop support and operating systems.</td>
<td>You need enthusiasm, to be a team player and be able to work efficiently in a very busy environment.</td>
<td>Contact your nearest NHS healthcare provider. Visit <a href="http://www.nhs.uk">www.nhs.uk</a> and search for vacancies on <a href="http://www.jobs.nhs.uk">www.jobs.nhs.uk</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>IT trainer</strong></td>
<td>IT trainers are responsible for training a range of healthcare professionals and supporting administrative staff in computer skills so they can use a number of information and communication systems effectively.</td>
<td>Likely to be a role for a graduate, and someone with formal training and ICT qualifications.</td>
<td>You need excellent interpersonal and presenting skills, and the ability to impart complex information and technologies to both new and experienced computer users. You need to be an expert in email, web and windows applications, to be calm and able to reassure nervous trainees.</td>
<td>Learning and Performance Institute Tel: 0845 006 8858 Email: <a href="mailto:info@learningandperformanceinstitute.com">info@learningandperformanceinstitute.com</a> <a href="http://www.learningandperformanceinstitute.com">www.learningandperformanceinstitute.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Laundry assistant A</strong></td>
<td>Laundry assistants ensure wards and theatres are supplied with clean linen, including gowns and sheets. They operate steam cabinets, use steam and vacuum presses or finish items by hand.</td>
<td>In-house training. No formal entry requirements A level 2 apprenticeship standard has been approved and may be available in your area.</td>
<td>You will need to be physically fit as well as having an eye for detail.</td>
<td>Contact your nearest NHS healthcare provider. Visit <a href="http://www.nhs.uk">www.nhs.uk</a> and search for vacancies on <a href="http://www.jobs.nhs.uk">www.jobs.nhs.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Health informatics</strong></td>
<td><strong>Description of Work</strong></td>
<td><strong>Minimum qualifications</strong></td>
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| **Libraries and knowledge manager** | Staff in this role lead the development of a trust’s knowledge management services – including physical libraries and online information and journals – so that all staff and others can access the information they need. | A degree in library and information management (or similar qualification), and possibly also a management qualification. Some management experience would also be advantage. | You need to be self-motivated, confident and forward-thinking, with the ability to operate at a strategic level in the organisation and to organise knowledge resources so the maximum number of people can access them. | The Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals  
Tel: 020 7255 0500  
www.cilip.org.uk |

| **Wider healthcare team** | **Maternity support worker** | Maternity support workers assist midwives in caring for women and their babies through the vital stages of pregnancy, childbirth and the first few days after the birth. | Healthcare organisations’ requirements vary. Applicants may need some academic qualifications or specific craft qualifications as a carpenter, painter and decorator or electrician, for example. Contact employers for their requirements. Apprenticeships in estates and maintenance roles are sometimes available. See page 5 for general information about searching and applying for apprenticeships. | You will need a conscientious attitude and be able to work consistently to a high standard. You will need to be practical, able to work unsupervised or as part of a team. | Visit www.nhs.uk for details of local trusts and search for vacancies on www.jobs.nhs.uk |

| **Wider healthcare team** | **Medical secretary** | Medical secretaries deal with consultants’ or GPs’ correspondence and provide essential secretarial support. | There are no formal requirements, but most healthcare organisations require a good all-round education and some may ask for OCR (or equivalent) qualifications. Applicants may also be able to work towards a qualification in medical secretarial studies through the Association of Medical Secretaries, Practice Managers and Receptionists or the British Society of Medical Secretaries. | Secretarial and computer skills are essential. You’ll need accuracy, organisational ability and good communication skills. | Association of Medical Secretaries, Practice Managers and Receptionists (AMSPAR)  
Tel: 020 7387 6005  
Email: info@amspar.com  
www.amspar.com  
British Society of Medical Secretaries  
Tel: 0844 335 0636  
www.bsmsa.org.uk |

| **Midwifery** | **Midwife** | Midwives help mothers-to-be and their families throughout pregnancy, labour and the first days of a newborn’s life. They work in both hospitals and the community and are trained to ensure each mother gets the care and help she wants or needs. | A degree in midwifery, followed by registration with the Nursing and Midwifery Council, or a 78-week training programme for registered nurses. Qualifications for entry to courses vary. A degree level apprenticeship standard in midwifery has been approved and may be available in your area. | You will need to be a good listener, understanding and non-judgmental, as midwifery is as much about supporting the mother-to-be as it is helping at the birth. You will need to be calm when all around you may be distressed and you must be able to inspire and encourage. | Nursing and Midwifery Council  
Tel: 020 7637 7181  
www.nmc-uk.org  
Royal College of Midwives  
Tel: 0300 303 0444  
www.rcm.org.uk |
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Description of Work</th>
<th>Minimum qualifications</th>
<th>Skills/Qualities</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>NHS 111 service adviser</strong></td>
<td>You’ll handle non-urgent calls from patients, members of the public and healthcare professionals such as GPs. Using specialist computer software to capture caller information, you’ll signpost people to the most appropriate service.</td>
<td>You’ll receive training when you start including on the call centre equipment and software, customer care, communication skills, first aid, prioritising calls and giving telephone advice. With training, you can progress to be a health adviser, senior health adviser or team leader.</td>
<td>You’ll need good listening and communication skills to talk to people from all backgrounds, treating callers with empathy, respect and consideration.</td>
<td>Contact your nearest NHS healthcare provider. Visit <a href="http://www.nhs.uk">www.nhs.uk</a> and search for vacancies on <a href="http://www.jobs.nhs.uk">www.jobs.nhs.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Nurse</strong></td>
<td>Nurses care for physically or mentally ill adults and children and provide support for their families, in hospitals and the community. The job can vary from helping someone learn basic daily tasks to administering life-saving drugs. There are four fields of nursing: adult nursing, mental health nursing, learning disability nursing and children’s nursing.</td>
<td>An approved degree, Master’s/graduate-entry programme or degree apprenticeship in nursing, leading to eligibility to apply for registration with the Nursing and Midwifery Council. Candidates will usually need to choose their preferred field of nursing before they start training. A small number of universities offer ‘dual field’ degrees. Entry requirements vary between universities. Nursing degree level apprenticeships may be entered via a qualification at level 3 or after relevant experience in a senior support role.</td>
<td>You will need patience, the presence of mind to juggle the medical needs of several patients at once, and the ability to set people at ease in sometimes distressing circumstances.</td>
<td>Nursing and Midwifery Council Tel: 020 7637 7181 <a href="http://www.nmc-uk.org">www.nmc-uk.org</a> Royal College of Nursing Tel: 020 7409 3333 <a href="http://www.rcn.org.uk">www.rcn.org.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Nursing associate</strong></td>
<td>Nursing associates work with healthcare support workers and registered nurses to deliver care for patients and the public. They work across all four fields of nursing: adult, children’s, mental health, and learning disability.</td>
<td>Trainees are largely recruited from existing roles as healthcare assistants and train via a level 5 apprenticeship. You’ll need good grade GCSEs in maths and English, or key skills level 2 in maths and English. You’ll work in a variety of settings to gain a broad range of experience. This means travelling to placements and working a mix of shifts.</td>
<td>You’ll need to demonstrate the values and behaviours of the NHS Constitution and a knowledge of physical health, mental health and illness prevention.</td>
<td>Search for nursing associate vacancies on the NHS Jobs website <a href="http://www.jobs.nhs.uk">www.jobs.nhs.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Nursing healthcare assistant</strong></td>
<td>Nursing healthcare assistants have a key role in routine nursing care, such as taking and recording temperatures, helping patients with washing and spending time talking to and reassuring patients.</td>
<td>There are no minimum entry qualifications, but a good general education is needed. Successful candidates may be able to extend their role and qualifications while earning a salary. Apprenticeships in nursing care and related roles are often available. See page 5 for general information about searching and applying for apprenticeships.</td>
<td>You will need to have a caring attitude, sensitivity and the ability to relate to patients of all ages and backgrounds.</td>
<td>Contact your nearest NHS healthcare provider. Visit <a href="http://www.nhs.uk">www.nhs.uk</a> and search for vacancies on <a href="http://www.jobs.nhs.uk">www.jobs.nhs.uk</a></td>
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### Allied health professions

#### Occupational therapist
Occupational therapists help children and adults to overcome physical, psychological or social problems arising from illness or disability, by concentrating on what they are able to achieve and enabling them to live as independently as possible.

- **Description of Work**
- **Minimum qualifications**
  - A BSc in occupational therapy (for which A-levels or equivalent are required) leading to eligibility to apply for registration with the Health and Care Professions Council. Graduates can qualify via a two-year accelerated course. A degree apprenticeship standard in occupational therapy has been approved and may be available in your area.
- **Skills/Qualities**
  - You need patience, ingenuity and a creative, practical approach. Most of all, you will want to work closely with people to help them to lead full and satisfying lives as independently as possible.
- **Contact details**
  - Royal College of Occupational Therapists
    - Tel: 020 7357 6480
    - [www.rcot.co.uk](http://www.rcot.co.uk)
  - Health and Care Professions Council
    - Tel: 0300 500 6184
    - [www.hcpc-uk.org](http://www.hcpc-uk.org)

#### Operating department practitioner
Operating department practitioners are an important part of the operating theatre team, working with surgeons, theatre nurses and anaesthetists to ensure every operation is as safe and effective as possible.

- **Description of Work**
- **Minimum qualifications**
  - An approved degree or diploma in higher education in operating department practice, and registration with the Health and Care Professions Council. Entry requirements vary between universities. A degree apprenticeship standard in operating department practice has been approved and may be available in your area.
- **Skills/Qualities**
  - You will be working in a pressurised atmosphere on intricate and complex procedures, so you will need to be calm and able to concentrate for long periods.
- **Contact details**
  - College of Operating Department Practitioners
    - Tel: 0800 0 857 857
    - Email: [office@aodp.org](mailto:office@aodp.org)
    - [www.codp.org.uk](http://www.codp.org.uk)
  - Health and Care Professions Council
    - Tel: 0300 500 6184
    - [www.hcpc-uk.org](http://www.hcpc-uk.org)

#### Orthoptist
Orthoptists diagnose and treat visual problems involving eye movement and alignment. They may also screen school children.

- **Description of Work**
- **Minimum qualifications**
  - Three or four year full-time university degree and registration with the Health and Care Professions Council.
- **Skills/Qualities**
  - You will want to work with people and have the ability to communicate with patients of all ages. You will need precision and accuracy in your work.
- **Contact details**
  - British and Irish Orthoptic Society
    - Tel: 01353 665 541
    - [www.orthoptics-bios.com](http://www.orthoptics-bios.com)
  - Health and Care Professions Council
    - Tel: 0300 500 6184
    - [www.hcpc-uk.org](http://www.hcpc-uk.org)

#### Orthotist
Orthotists provide a range of splints, braces and special footwear to aid movement, correct deformity and relieve discomfort. They work with people of all ages, from children with cerebral palsy to elderly patients needing specialist footwear.

- **Description of Work**
- **Minimum qualifications**
  - Three or four year full-time BSc in prosthetics and orthotics and registration with the Health and Care Professions Council. A degree apprenticeship standard has been approved and may be available in your area. Once registered as a practitioner, you can choose to specialise either as an orthotist or prosthetist.
- **Skills/Qualities**
  - You will need patience and accuracy to take the precise measurements that affect a patient’s comfort and mobility.
  - You will also have the communication skills needed to reassure patients and a talent for technical design.
- **Contact details**
  - British Association of Prosthetists and Orthotists
    - Tel: 0141 561 7217
    - Email: [enquiries@bapo.com](mailto:enquiries@bapo.com)
    - [www.bapo.com](http://www.bapo.com)
  - Health and Care Professions Council
    - Tel: 0300 500 6184
    - [www.hcpc-uk.org](http://www.hcpc-uk.org)

#### Osteopath
Osteopaths use manual therapy, exercise and advice, to promote the optimum environment for health, based on the individual needs of the patient.

- **Description of Work**
- **Minimum qualifications**
  - All osteopaths must be registered with the General Osteopathic Council to be able to practise in the UK. They are trained to degree level through either an approved Bachelor’s (BSc) or Masters of Science (MSc) in Osteopathy.
- **Skills/Qualities**
  - A patient-centred approach, with an interest in people and how the body works, able to work independently and with others, a scientific interest, curiosity, creativity, integrity, and the ability to take responsibility.
- **Contact details**
  - General Osteopathic Council
    - [www.osteopathy.org.uk](http://www.osteopathy.org.uk/)
  - The Institute of Osteopathy
    - [www.iosteopathy.org](http://www.iosteopathy.org/)
### Ambulance service

#### Paramedic

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<td>Paramedics are senior members of accident and emergency ambulance crews, providing pre-hospital care and treatment to patients who are either acutely ill or injured.</td>
<td>Paramedics must register with the Health and Care Professions Council. For this, candidates must take an HCPC-approved course, either on a full time basis (at university) or apply for a student paramedic post with an ambulance trust and complete the training part-time. Full-time courses will usually require GCSEs and A-levels (or equivalent qualifications). A degree apprenticeship standard in paramedic science has been approved and may be available in your area. Paramedics must hold a suitable driving licence.</td>
<td>You will need to be physically fit and mentally able to deal with a highly pressurised environment. You must be able to communicate with both children and adults, remaining calm even in highly distressing situations. You must also be a confident driver.</td>
<td>Contact your nearest ambulance service trust. Visit <a href="http://www.nhs.uk">www.nhs.uk</a> for details and search for student paramedic vacancies on <a href="http://www.jobs.nhs.uk">www.jobs.nhs.uk</a> College of Paramedics <a href="http://www.collegeofparamedics.co.uk">www.collegeofparamedics.co.uk</a> Health and Care Professions Council Tel: 0300 500 6184 <a href="http://www.hcpc-uk.org">www.hcpc-uk.org</a></td>
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#### Patient Transport Service call handler

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<td>Patient Transport Service call handlers have a key role in ensuring that patients, many of whom are frail and elderly, get to their health appointments safely and on time.</td>
<td>Some employers ask for a certain number of GCSEs or the equivalent. Others look for a good general education.</td>
<td>You will need a calm, efficient approach under pressure and good communication skills.</td>
<td>Contact your nearest ambulance service trust. Visit <a href="http://www.nhs.uk">www.nhs.uk</a> for details and search for vacancies on <a href="http://www.jobs.nhs.uk">www.jobs.nhs.uk</a></td>
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#### Personal assistant

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<td>Personal assistants provide comprehensive administration and secretarial support to senior staff.</td>
<td>Employers’ requirements may vary, but PAs need good verbal and written English, as well as typing skills and computer literacy. Apprenticeships in administration are often available. See page 5 for general information about searching and applying for apprenticeships.</td>
<td>You need to be well-organised, efficient and motivated. You need to have a pleasant manner, with excellent communication skills. You will also need to be discreet.</td>
<td>Association of Medical Secretaries, Practice Managers and Receptionists (AMSPAR) Tel: 020 7387 6005 Email: <a href="mailto:info@amspar.com">info@amspar.com</a> <a href="http://www.amspar.com">www.amspar.com</a> British Society of Medical Secretaries Tel: 0844 335 0636 <a href="http://www.bsmsa.org.uk">www.bsmsa.org.uk</a></td>
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#### Pharmacist

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<td>Pharmacists are experts in drugs and medicine, and manage hospital or community pharmacies. They advise medical staff and patients on the choice and use of drugs and can also train to prescribe medicines for some conditions.</td>
<td>A four-year Master’s degree in pharmacy, followed by a year in a pharmacy and a professional registration exam. Pharmacists must register with the General Pharmaceutical Council. A few universities incorporate the ‘preregistration’ year within their five-year pharmacy degree.</td>
<td>You need to be good at science and be able to communicate with people at all levels of seniority. You must have excellent concentration and hand-to-eye coordination. You will need to work well on your own and as part of a team.</td>
<td>General Pharmaceutical Council Tel: 020 3713 8000 <a href="http://www.pharmacyregulation.org">www.pharmacyregulation.org</a> Royal Pharmaceutical Society Tel: 0845 257 2570 Email: <a href="mailto:support@rpharms.com">support@rpharms.com</a> <a href="http://www.rpharms.com">www.rpharms.com</a></td>
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#### Pharmacy technician

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<td>Pharmacy technicians prepare and supply medicines, which includes weighing out ingredients, counting tablets and measuring liquids.</td>
<td>Pharmacy technicians must register with the General Pharmaceutical Council, gaining approved qualifications through on-the-job training, leading to an NVQ qualification at level 3 in pharmacy services or National Pharmacy Association qualification at level 3. Apprenticeships for pharmacy technicians are sometimes available. See page 5 for general information about searching and applying for apprenticeships.</td>
<td>You will need good colour vision, excellent scientific and numerical skills, a methodical and accurate approach and be able to concentrate. You will also need tact, discretion and the ability to explain complex instructions to patients clearly.</td>
<td>General Pharmaceutical Council Tel: 020 3713 8000 <a href="http://www.pharmacyregulation.org">www.pharmacyregulation.org</a> The Association of Pharmacy Technicians Tel: 0121 632 2025 Email: <a href="mailto:info@aptuk.org">info@aptuk.org</a> <a href="http://www.aptuk.org">www.aptuk.org</a></td>
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<tr>
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<td><strong>Physician associate</strong></td>
<td>Physician associates support doctors in the diagnosis and management of patients. They work in GP practices and hospitals.</td>
<td>A science-related degree is usually required to get onto the postgraduate training course offered by a number of universities. Registered healthcare professionals such as nurses and allied health professionals can also apply. An undergraduate route is also available at one university.</td>
<td>You need to show your academic potential for the training, experience of working with the public, an interest in health or social care and excellent communication skills.</td>
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<td><strong>Physiotherapist</strong></td>
<td>Physiotherapists help patients regain movement lost through illness, accident or ageing.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Podiatrist</strong></td>
<td>Podiatrists see patients of all ages to diagnose and treat problems of the lower limb. These include verrucas, sports and dance injuries and circulation problems in patients at risk from amputation, such as those with diabetes.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Porter</strong></td>
<td>Porters play a vital role, moving frail and often very ill patients between departments and wards in safety and comfort. They also transport complex and valuable equipment that may need expert handling.</td>
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<th>Allied health professions</th>
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<td><strong>Psychotherapist</strong></td>
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<td>Description of Work</td>
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<td><strong>Public health practitioner</strong>&lt;br&gt;Public health practitioners work in many places and in many areas of public health. They may support healthy lifestyle programmes, help individuals and groups to stop smoking or take more exercise; work on immunisation programmes and screening, or specialise in health protection. Others work in public health knowledge and intelligence in local government and Public Health England.&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;There are no set entry requirements to become a public health practitioner. Many roles do not have clearly defined training routes and currently, registration as a “practitioner” with the UK Public Health Register (UKPHR) is voluntary. It is essential to check requirements for each role.&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;You will need well developed people skills, an ability to value difference and diversity, creativity and adaptability, able to analyse and interpret information, an ability to create marketing materials, publications and reports and confidence in making recommendations about how services could be delivered.</td>
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**Wider healthcare team**

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