



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. 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 ten 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.

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.

-  www.healthcareers.nhs.uk
-  **0345 60 60 655**
-  advice@healthcareers.nhs.uk

As well as contacting Health Careers, you can also get in touch with your local clinic, NHS trust/any organisation that provides NHS services or health-related services, and speak to the human resources or personnel department, or ask your local careers organisation.

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.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship

Areas of work

Allied health professions (AHPs), psychological therapies and operating department practice (ODP)

Allied health professionals and staff in the psychological therapies 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. Staff in operating department practice provide care and support before, during and after operations.

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.

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.

Healthcare science and pharmacy

Healthcare scientists and pharmacy staff help prevent, diagnose and treat illness using their knowledge of science and their technical skills. They can use their expertise to help save lives and improve patient care in a supporting role or in direct contact with patients.

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.

Management

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

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.

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.

Physician associate

Physician associates support doctors in the diagnosis and management of patients. They work in GP practices and hospitals.

Wider healthcare team

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

Allied health professions (AHPs), psychological therapies and operating department practice (ODP)

Art, drama and music therapist
Dietitian
High intensity therapist
Occupational therapist
Operating department practitioner
Orthoptist
Orthotist
Physiotherapist
Podiatrist
Prosthetist
Psychologist
Psychological wellbeing practitioner
Psychotherapist
Radiographer
Speech and language therapist
Therapy assistant

Ambulance service

Ambulance care assistant
Call handler
Emergency care assistant
Emergency medical dispatcher
Paramedic

Ambulance service (cont.)

Patient transport services controller (non-emergency call handler)
Senior paramedic

Health informatics

Clinical coder
Health records clerk
ICT support technician
IT trainer
Libraries and knowledge manager

Healthcare science and pharmacy

Biomedical scientist
Clinical perfusion scientist
Clinical photographer
Clinical scientist - audiology
Clinical scientist - biochemistry
Clinical scientist - clinical engineering
Clinical scientist - cytogenetics
Clinical scientist - medical physics
Clinical scientist - microbiology

Healthcare science and pharmacy (cont.)

Healthcare science assistant - anatomical pathology
Healthcare science assistant - phlebotomy
Healthcare science associate - cervical cytology
Healthcare science practitioner - cardiac sciences
Healthcare science practitioner - respiratory physiology and sleep sciences
Pharmacist
Pharmacy technician

Medical and dental

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

Management

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

Midwifery

Maternity support worker
Midwife

Nursing

Nurse
Nursing healthcare assistant

Physician associate

Physician associate

Wider healthcare team

Architect
Catering assistant
Catering manager
Cleaner
Driver
Gardener
Health play staff
Health promotion specialist
Housekeeper
Laundry assistant
Maintenance staff
Medical secretary
Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) staff
Personal assistant
Porter
Receptionist/telephonist
Skilled trades staff
Stores staff
Ward staff

	Description of work	Minimum qualifications	Skills/Qualities	Contact details
Ambulance service	<p>Ambulance care assistant</p> <p>Ambulance care assistants transport patients to and from hospital and other care settings and are part of the non-emergency ambulance service.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Contact your nearest ambulance service trust. Visit www.nhs.uk and search for vacancies on www.jobs.nhs.uk</p>
Wider healthcare team	<p>Architect</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Royal Institute of British Architects Tel: 020 7580 5533 Email: info@inst.riba.org www.architecture.com</p>
Allied health professions	<p>Art, drama and music therapist</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>British Association of Art Therapists Tel: 020 7686 4216 Email: info@baat.org www.baat.org</p> <p>British Association of Dramatherapists Tel: 01242 235515 Email: info@badth.org.uk www.badth.org.uk</p> <p>British Association for Music Therapy Tel: 020 7837 6100 Email: info@bamt.org www.bamt.org</p> <p>Health and Care Professions Council Tel: 0300 500 6184 www.hcpc-uk.org</p>
Healthcare science	<p>Biomedical scientist</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Health and Care Professions Council Tel: 0300 500 6184 www.hcpc-uk.org</p> <p>Institute of Biomedical Science Tel: 020 7713 0214 Email: mail@ibms.org www.ibms.org</p>

	Description of work	Minimum qualifications	Skills/Qualities	Contact details
Ambulance service	<p>Call handler</p> <p>As part of the control room team, you will answer 999 telephone calls for the ambulance service.</p>	<p>In-service training, but most employers ask for a good general education.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Visit www.nhs.uk and search for vacancies on www.jobs.nhs.uk</p>
Wider healthcare team	<p>Catering assistant</p> <p>Catering assistants are part of a team committed to making sure food and drink for patients is nutritious and appetising.</p>	<p>Trusts' requirements vary, but a foundation course in food hygiene may be an advantage.</p> <p>A good standard of literacy and numeracy is usually needed.</p> <p>Apprenticeships in catering and related roles are sometimes available. See page 5 for general information about searching and applying for apprenticeships.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Hospital Caterers Association www.hospitalcaterers.org</p>
Wider healthcare team	<p>Catering manager</p> <p>Catering managers run catering departments in NHS organisations and manage staff. They are responsible for providing patients and staff with nutritious food.</p>	<p>Relevant degree, HND/BTEC or the equivalent qualification from the Institute of Hospitality.</p>	<p>You will need to be an enthusiastic team leader who can motivate staff and manage budgets.</p>	<p>Hospital Caterers Association www.hospitalcaterers.org</p> <p>Institute of Hospitality Tel: 020 8661 4900 www.instituteofhospitality.org</p>
Wider healthcare team	<p>Cleaner</p> <p>Cleaners (often called domestic assistants) make sure patients receive care in a safe and hygienic environment and play an important part in infection control.</p>	<p>On-the-job training in the safe use of cleaning products and equipment.</p> <p>A good standard of literacy and numeracy is usually needed.</p>	<p>You need to be hard-working, conscientious and able to work unsupervised.</p>	<p>Contact your nearest NHS healthcare provider. Visit www.nhs.uk and search for vacancies on www.jobs.nhs.uk</p>
Health informatics	<p>Clinical coder</p> <p>Clinical coders create an accurate record of a patient's stay in hospital by recording diagnoses and interventions as a series of alpha numeric codes on a computer.</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>You need to be accurate and able to extract information quickly from medical notes.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Institute of Health Record Information and Management Tel: 01773 713 927 Email: ihrim@zen.co.uk www.ihrim.co.uk</p>

	Description of work	Minimum qualifications	Skills/Qualities	Contact details
Healthcare science	<p>Clinical perfusion scientist</p> <p>Healthcare scientists working in perfusion science are vital members of the open-heart surgery team, responsible for life-support equipment.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Society of Clinical Perfusion Scientists of Great Britain and Ireland Tel: 020 7869 6891 Email: admin@sopgbi.freeserve.co.uk www.scps.org.uk</p>
Healthcare science	<p>Clinical photographer</p> <p>Healthcare scientists working in clinical photography work throughout the hospital, on wards and in operating theatres, as well as in studios, providing photographic, video and graphic records of patients, their conditions and progress through treatment. They also contribute graphics for patient information and other publications.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Institute of Medical Illustrators Tel: 020 7837 2846 Email: info@imi.org.uk www.imi.org.uk</p>
Healthcare science	<p>Clinical scientist – audiology</p> <p>Clinical scientists working in audiology identify and assess hearing and balance disorders in patients of all ages. They recommend and provide rehabilitation and management for patients' conditions to improve their quality of life.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>British Academy of Audiology Tel: 01625 290 046 Email: admin@baaudiology.org www.baaudiology.org</p>
Healthcare science	<p>Clinical scientist – biochemistry</p> <p>Clinical scientists working in clinical biochemistry analyse specimens of body fluids or tissues and interpret the results. They develop new techniques for doing this and advise clinicians on how to diagnose and treat disease.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>The Association for Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine Tel: 020 7403 8001 www.acb.org.uk</p>

	Description of work	Minimum qualifications	Skills/Qualities	Contact details
Healthcare science	<p>Clinical scientist – clinical engineering</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Institute of Physics and Engineering in Medicine (IPEM) Tel: 01904 610821 Email: office@ipem.ac.uk www.ipem.ac.uk</p>
Healthcare science	<p>Clinical scientist – cytogenetics</p> <p>Clinical scientists working in cytogenetics are experts in studying chromosomes from samples of human blood, tissues or bodily fluids to diagnose genetic disease, including leukaemia and cancer.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Working in small laboratories, you need to be a good team member and the ability to concentrate for microscope work. You need to work quickly with meticulous accuracy.</p>	<p>British Society for Genetic Medicine Tel: 0121 627 2634 Email: bshg@bshg.org.uk www.bsgm.org.uk</p>
Healthcare science	<p>Clinical scientist – medical physics</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>You will need a strong aptitude for science as well as the ability to communicate with doctors and patients alike.</p>	<p>Institute of Physics and Engineering in Medicine Tel: 01904 610821 Email: office@ipem.ac.uk www.ipem.ac.uk</p>
Healthcare science	<p>Clinical scientist – microbiology</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>The Association for Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine Microbiology Group www.acb.org.uk</p>

D	Description of work	Minimum qualifications	Skills/Qualities	Contact details
Dental	<p>Dental hygienist</p> <p>Dental hygienists work to keep teeth and gums healthy. They scale and polish patients' teeth and educate them to prevent tooth decay and gum disease.</p>	<p>Hygienists must register with the General Dental Council (GDC) to practise and applicants will need a GDC-approved qualification in dental hygiene. These are offered at degree and diploma level, candidates need five GCSEs A-C (or equivalent qualifications) to get onto a course, including English and one science, and either two A-levels, or a recognised dental nursing qualification.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>British Society of Dental Hygiene and Therapy Tel: 01788 575050 Email: enquiries@bsdht.org.uk www.bsdht.org.uk General Dental Council Tel: 020 7167 6000 www.gdc-uk.org</p>
Dental	<p>Dental nurse</p> <p>Dental nurses assist dentists, passing instruments, mixing materials and taking notes, and help look after patients during treatment.</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>Apprenticeships in dental nursing are sometimes available. See page 5 for general information about searching and applying for apprenticeships.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>British Association of Dental Nurses Tel: 01253 338 360 Email: admin@badn.org.uk www.badn.org.uk General Dental Council Tel: 020 7167 6000 www.gdc-uk.org</p>
Dental	<p>Dental technician</p> <p>Dental technicians make dental appliances, such as crowns, bridges and dentures, to a dentist's or doctor's instructions.</p>	<p>Five GCSEs A-C 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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>British Association of Clinical Dental Technology Tel: 01159 575 370 www.bacdt.org.uk Dental Technologists Association Tel: 01452 886 366 www.dta-uk.org General Dental Council Tel: 020 7167 6000 www.gdc-uk.org</p>
Dental	<p>Dental therapist</p> <p>Dental therapists carry out simple treatments, such as fillings and extractions, usually for children, older people and those with special needs. A dental therapist also promotes oral health, teaching people about dental hygiene.</p>	<p>Five GCSEs A-C or equivalent and either two A-levels or a nationally-recognised dental nursing qualification. Dental therapists must register with the General Dental Council (GDC) and need a GDC-approved diploma or degree in dental therapy or dental therapy and dental hygiene to be able to do this.</p>	<p>You need to be manually dextrous, with good eyesight and colour vision. A sympathetic manner is essential to treat and advise patients.</p>	<p>British Association of Dental Therapists Tel: 0161 665 5878 www.badt.org.uk General Dental Council Tel: 020 7167 6000 www.gdc-uk.org</p>
Dental	<p>Dentist</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Three very good 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.</p>	<p>You need to be confident, with high academic standards and good manual dexterity. You will need to develop excellent diagnostic, clinical and social skills.</p>	<p>British Dental Association Tel: 020 7935 0875 Email: enquiries@bda.org www.bda.org General Dental Council Tel: 020 7167 6000 www.gdc-uk.org</p>

	Description of work	Minimum qualifications	Skills/Qualities	Contact details
Allied health professions	Dietitian 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.	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.	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.	British Dietetic Association Tel: 0121 200 8080 Email: info@bda.uk.com www.bda.uk.com Health and Care Professions Council Tel: 0300 500 6184 www.hcpc-uk.org
Doctor	Doctor 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.	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.	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.	British Medical Association www.bma.org.uk General Medical Council www.gmc-uk.org
Wider healthcare team	Driver 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.	An appropriate driving licence, depending on the type of vehicle applicants are required to drive.	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.	Contact your nearest NHS healthcare provider. Visit www.nhs.uk and search for vacancies on www.jobs.nhs.uk
Ambulance service	Emergency care assistant 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.	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.	You need to be quick-thinking and decisive, but also provide a calm and reassuring environment to patients and relatives.	Contact your nearest ambulance service trust. Visit www.nhs.uk for details and search for vacancies on www.jobs.nhs.uk
Ambulance service	Emergency medical dispatcher Emergency medical dispatchers are responsible for sending an emergency vehicle to an incident as quickly, and with as much information, as possible.	In-service training will be provided and most employers ask for a good general education.	You will need a calm, efficient approach in what might be life or death situations. Good communication skills are required.	Contact your nearest ambulance service trust. Visit www.nhs.uk for details and search for vacancies on www.jobs.nhs.uk

	Description of work	Minimum qualifications	Skills/Qualities	Contact details
Doctor	<p>Emergency medicine doctor</p> <p>Doctors specialising in emergency medicine carry out the immediate assessment and treatment of patients with serious and life-threatening illnesses and injuries.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Royal College of Emergency Medicine www.rcem.ac.uk</p> <p>General Medical Council www.gmc-uk.org</p>
Management	<p>Finance manager</p> <p>Finance managers are responsible for ensuring that NHS funds are appropriately allocated and accounted for. They work on payroll, pensions, financial reports and auditing.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>You will need excellent mathematical skills, a methodical mind and an eye for detail.</p>	<p>Association of Accounting Technicians Tel: 0845 863 0800 Email: aat@aat.org.uk www.aat.org.uk</p> <p>NHS Graduate Management Training Scheme www.isthenhsforme.co.uk</p> <p>Consultancy Committee of Accountancy Bodies www.ccab.org.uk</p>
Wider healthcare team	<p>Gardener</p> <p>Gardeners look after the plants, shrubs and lawns at healthcare organisations.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>You need to enjoy working outdoors, be enthusiastic about plants and capable of doing physical work.</p>	<p>Contact your nearest NHS healthcare provider. Visit www.nhs.uk and search for vacancies on www.jobs.nhs.uk</p>
Management	<p>General manager</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>NHS Graduate Management Training Scheme www.isthenhsforme.co.uk</p>
Doctor	<p>General practitioner</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Royal College of General Practitioners www.rcgp.org.uk</p> <p>General Medical Council www.gmc-uk.org</p>

	Description of work	Minimum qualifications	Skills/Qualities	Contact details
Wider healthcare team	<p>Health play staff</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Health play assistants will usually need a professional childcare qualification at level 3.</p> <p>A basic grade health play specialist will need to have taken the foundation degree in healthcare play specialism. Relevant experience is often a prerequisite.</p> <p>Senior health play staff will usually need to hold a foundation degree in healthcare play specialism, and have undertaken training in child protection. They may also be required to have relevant post-qualifying experience.</p> <p>There may be additional requirements to those mentioned above – contact the Healthcare Play Specialist Education Trust for details and list of approved courses.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Healthcare Play Specialist Education Trust www.hpset.org.uk</p> <p>National Association of Health Play Specialists (NAHPS) www.nahps.org.uk</p>
Wider healthcare team	<p>Health promotion specialist</p> <p>Health promotion specialists plan and publicise ways to stay healthy and prevent disease. They work on campaigns from stopping smoking to sexual health.</p>	<p>To train in this career, applicants will be expected to have a degree in biological, behavioural or social science or a professional qualification and experience in a field such as nursing or teaching. For those without relevant experience, voluntary work in health promotion could help them gain the edge that employers look for.</p>	<p>You will be a caring, understanding person with excellent communication skills. You will be able to inspire others and enjoy finding new ways of promoting a healthy lifestyle.</p>	<p>Faculty of Public Health Email: educ@fph.org.uk www.fph.org.uk</p> <p>Royal Society for Public Health Tel: 020 7265 7300 www.rsph.org.uk</p> <p>The Institute of Health Promotion and Education Email: honsec@ihpe.org.uk www.ihpe.org.uk</p>
Health informatics	<p>Health records clerk</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>No formal qualifications are needed, although applicants are likely to need computing skills and a good general education.</p> <p>Apprenticeships in administration are often available. See page 5 for general information about searching and applying for apprenticeships.</p>	<p>You need to be able to stay calm under pressure, be good with people and have the ability to maintain strict confidentiality.</p>	<p>Institute of Health Record and Information Management Tel: 01773 713 927 Email: ihrim@zen.co.uk www.ihrim.co.uk</p>
Healthcare science	<p>Healthcare science assistant – anatomical pathology</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Hospitals will ask for a good general education of at least 5 A-C 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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Association of Anatomical Pathology Technologists Tel: 020 7278 2151 Email: mail@aaptuk.org www.aaptuk.org</p>

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Healthcare science	<p>Healthcare science assistant – phlebotomy</p> <p>Healthcare science assistants working in phlebotomy collect blood from patients for examination in a laboratory, providing vital pointers for diagnosing illness.</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>Apprenticeships in healthcare science are sometimes available. See page 5 for general information about searching and applying for apprenticeships.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>National Association of Phlebotomists Tel: 020 7833 8784 Email: phlebotomy@btinternet.com www.phlebotomy.org</p> <p>Search for trainee phlebotomist vacancies on www.jobs.nhs.uk</p>
Healthcare science	<p>Healthcare science associate practitioner – cervical cytology</p> <p>Healthcare science associate practitioners working in cervical cytology examine cervical samples under a microscope to detect early signs of cancer in women.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>British Association for Cytopathology Tel: 020 7278 6907 www.britishcytology.org.uk</p> <p>Search for trainee phlebotomist vacancies on www.jobs.nhs.uk</p>
Healthcare science	<p>Healthcare science practitioner – cardiac sciences</p> <p>Healthcare science practitioners working in cardiac sciences investigate the functioning of the heart, and use a wide variety of equipment to help the heart function, such as pacemakers.</p>	<p>An accredited three year full-time BSc (Hons) Healthcare Science in cardiac physiology.</p>	<p>You need to be friendly and professional as well as being calm, confident and sympathetic.</p>	<p>Society for Cardiological Science and Technology (SCST) Tel: 0845 838 6037 www.scst.org.uk</p>
Healthcare science	<p>Healthcare science practitioner – respiratory physiology and sleep sciences</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>An accredited three year full-time BSc (Hons) Healthcare Science in physiological sciences and sleep sciences.</p>	<p>You will need the confidence to handle both complicated equipment and nervous patients. Good communication skills are important.</p>	<p>Association for Respiratory Technology and Physiology Email: admin@artp.org.uk Tel: 0845 226 3062 www.artp.org.uk</p>
Psychological therapies	<p>High intensity therapist</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>You need to show sensitivity and understanding and be able to explain the treatment you are providing. You'll need excellent communication skills.</p>	<p>British Association of Behavioural and Cognitive Psychotherapies www.babcp.com/Default.aspx</p> <p>Improving Access to Psychological Therapies www.iapt.nhs.uk</p>

	Description of work	Minimum qualifications	Skills/Qualities	Contact details
Wider healthcare team	<p>Housekeeper</p> <p>Housekeepers help senior nurses run hospital wards by coordinating a range of ward services including: cleaning, catering, clerical, transport and linen.</p>	<p>There are no minimum entry requirements, but a good general standard of education and some experience of hotel and catering services may help.</p>	<p>You need to work well as part of a team. You'll need to supervise staff and ensure high standards are maintained.</p>	<p>Contact your nearest NHS healthcare provider. Visit www.nhs.uk and search for vacancies on www.jobs.nhs.uk</p>
Management	<p>Human resources manager</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>NHS Graduate Management Training Scheme www.isthenhsforme.co.uk</p> <p>Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development Tel: 020 8612 6208 www.cipd.co.uk</p>
Health informatics	<p>ICT support technician</p> <p>ICT support technicians work as part of the health informatics team, diagnosing and fixing computer faults and installing PCs.</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>Apprenticeships in IT-related roles are sometimes available. See page 5 for general information about searching and applying for apprenticeships.</p>	<p>You need enthusiasm, to be a team player and be able to work efficiently in a very busy environment.</p>	<p>Contact your nearest NHS healthcare provider. Visit www.nhs.uk and search for vacancies on www.jobs.nhs.uk</p>
Health informatics	<p>IT trainer</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Likely to be a role for a graduate, and someone with formal training and ICT qualifications.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Learning and Performance Institute Tel: 0845 006 8858 Email: info@learningandperformanceinstitute.com www.learningandperformanceinstitute.com</p>
Wider healthcare team	<p>Laundry assistant</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>In-house training. No formal entry requirements.</p>	<p>You will need to be physically fit as well as having an eye for detail.</p>	<p>Contact your nearest NHS healthcare provider. Visit www.nhs.uk and search for vacancies on www.jobs.nhs.uk</p>

	Description of work	Minimum qualifications	Skills/Qualities	Contact details
Health informatics	<p>Libraries and knowledge manager</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>A degree in library and information management (or similar qualification), and possibly also a management qualification. Some management experience would also be advantage.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>The Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals Tel: 020 7255 0500 www.cilip.org.uk</p>
Wider healthcare team	<p>Maintenance staff</p> <p>Maintenance staff are responsible for all aspects of the upkeep of NHS buildings and grounds, and include groundsmen/women, painters and decorators.</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>Apprenticeships in estates and maintenance roles are sometimes available. See page 5 for general information about searching and applying for apprenticeships.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Visit www.nhs.uk for details of local trusts and search for vacancies on www.jobs.nhs.uk</p>
Midwifery	<p>Maternity support worker</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>There are no minimum entry qualifications, but candidates will need a good general education. Successful applicants may be able to extend their role and qualifications while earning a salary.</p>	<p>You will need to have a caring attitude and an interest in mothers and newborn babies.</p>	<p>Royal College of Midwives Tel: 0300 303 0444 www.rcm.org.uk</p> <p>Search for vacancies on www.jobs.nhs.uk</p>
Wider healthcare team	<p>Medical secretary</p> <p>Medical secretaries deal with consultants' or GPs' correspondence and provide essential secretarial support.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Secretarial and computer skills are essential. You'll need accuracy, organisational ability and good communication skills.</p>	<p>Association of Medical Secretaries, Practice Managers and Receptionists (AMSPAR) Tel: 020 7387 6005 Email: info@amspar.com www.amspar.com</p> <p>British Society of Medical Secretaries Tel: 0844 335 0636 www.bsmsa.org.uk</p>
Midwifery	<p>Midwife</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Nursing and Midwifery Council Tel: 020 7637 7181 www.nmc-uk.org</p> <p>Royal College of Midwives Tel: 0300 303 0444 www.rcm.org.uk</p>

	Description of work	Minimum qualifications	Skills/Qualities	Contact details
Nursing	<p>Nurse</p> <p>Includes the four initial fields of nursing: adult/general nursing, mental health nursing, learning disability nursing and children's nursing.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>An approved degree or Master's/graduate-entry programme in nursing, leading to eligibility to apply for registration with the Nursing and Midwifery Council. Candidates will usually need to choose the field of nursing they want to work in before they start training. A small number of universities offer 'dual field' degrees. Entry requirements vary between universities.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Nursing and Midwifery Council Tel: 020 7637 7181 www.nmc-uk.org</p> <p>Royal College of Nursing Tel: 020 7409 3333 www.rcn.org.uk</p>
Nursing	<p>Nursing healthcare assistant</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>Apprenticeships in nursing care and related roles are sometimes available. See page 5 for general information about searching and applying for apprenticeships.</p>	<p>You will need to have a caring attitude, sensitivity and the ability to relate to patients of all ages and backgrounds.</p>	<p>Contact your nearest NHS healthcare provider. Visit www.nhs.uk and search for vacancies on www.jobs.nhs.uk</p>
Allied Health professions	<p>Occupational therapist</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>British Association/College of Occupational Therapists Tel: 020 7357 6480 www.cot.co.uk</p> <p>Health and Care Professions Council Tel: 0300 500 6184 www.hcpc-uk.org</p>
Operating department practice	<p>Operating department practitioner</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>College of Operating Department Practitioners Tel: 0800 0 857 857 Email: office@aodp.org www.codp.org.uk</p> <p>Health and Care Professions Council Tel: 0300 500 6184 www.hcpc-uk.org</p>
Allied health professions	<p>Orthoptist</p> <p>Orthoptists diagnose and treat visual problems involving eye movement and alignment. They may also screen school children.</p>	<p>Three or four year full-time university degree and registration with the Health and Care Professions Council.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>British and Irish Orthoptic Society Tel: 01353 665 541 www.orthoptics.org.uk</p> <p>Health and Care Professions Council Tel: 0300 500 6184 www.hcpc-uk.org</p>

O	Description of work	Minimum qualifications	Skills/Qualities	Contact details
Allied health professions	<p>Orthotist</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Three, four or five year full-time BSc in prosthetics and orthotics and registration with the Health and Care Professions Council.</p> <p>Once registered as a practitioner, you can choose to specialise either as an orthotist or prosthetist.</p>	<p>You will need patience and accuracy to take the precise measurements that affect a patient's comfort and mobility.</p> <p>You will also have the communication skills needed to reassure patients and a talent for technical design.</p>	<p>British Association of Prosthetists and Orthotists Tel: 0141 561 7217 Email: enquiries@bapo.com www.bapo.com</p> <p>Health and Care Professions Council Tel: 0300 500 6184 www.hcpc-uk.org</p>
Ambulance service	<p>Paramedic</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>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). Paramedics must hold a suitable driving licence.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Contact your nearest ambulance service trust. Visit www.nhs.uk for details and search for student paramedic vacancies on www.jobs.nhs.uk</p> <p>College of Paramedics www.collegeofparamedics.co.uk</p> <p>Health and Care Professions Council Tel: 0300 500 6184 www.hcpc-uk.org</p>
Wider healthcare team	<p>Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) staff</p> <p>PALS staff are a crucial link between patients and NHS services. They provide patients with accurate information about their conditions and progress of their treatment, and receive comments from patients about services provided.</p>	<p>Some senior PALS staff may be required to have a degree or a professional level qualification. PALS support staff will usually have a good general education and administrative skills.</p>	<p>You need to be supportive and reassuring to patients. You will need excellent verbal and written communication skills and an ability to keep concise and accurate records. More senior staff may need interviewing, presentation and people-management skills and the ability to work with senior managers and clinicians.</p>	<p>Contact your nearest NHS healthcare provider. Visit www.nhs.uk and search for vacancies on www.jobs.nhs.uk</p>
Ambulance service	<p>Patient transport services controller (non-emergency call handler)</p> <p>Patient transport services controllers have a key role in ensuring that patients, many of whom are frail and elderly, get to their health appointments safely and on time.</p>	<p>Some employers ask for a certain number of GCSEs or the equivalent. Others look for a good general education.</p>	<p>You will need a calm, efficient approach under pressure and good communication skills.</p>	<p>Contact your nearest ambulance service trust. Visit www.nhs.uk for details and search for vacancies on www.jobs.nhs.uk</p>
Wider healthcare team	<p>Personal assistant</p> <p>Personal assistants provide comprehensive administration and secretarial support to senior staff.</p>	<p>Employers' requirements may vary, but PAs need good verbal and written English, as well as typing skills and computer literacy.</p> <p>Apprenticeships in administration are often available. See page 5 for general information about searching and applying for apprenticeships.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Association of Medical Secretaries, Practice Managers and Receptionists (AMSPAR) Tel: 020 7387 6005 Email: info@amspar.com www.amspar.com</p> <p>British Society of Medical Secretaries Tel: 0844 335 0636 www.bsmsa.org.uk</p>

	Description of work	Minimum qualifications	Skills/Qualities	Contact details
Pharmacy	<p>Pharmacist</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>General Pharmaceutical Council Tel: 020 3713 8000 www.pharmacyregulation.org</p> <p>Royal Pharmaceutical Society Tel: 0845 257 2570 Email: support@rpharms.com www.rpharms.com</p>
Pharmacy	<p>Pharmacy technician</p> <p>Pharmacy technicians prepare and supply medicines, which includes weighing out ingredients, counting tablets and measuring liquids.</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>Apprenticeships for pharmacy technicians are sometimes available. See page 5 for general information about searching and applying for apprenticeships.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>General Pharmaceutical Council Tel: 020 3713 8000 www.pharmacyregulation.org</p> <p>The Association of Pharmacy Technicians Tel: 0121 632 2025 Email: info@aptuk.org www.aptuk.org</p>
Physician associate	<p>Physician associate</p> <p>Physician associates support doctors in the diagnosis and management of patients. They work in GP practices and hospitals.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Faculty of Physician Associates www.fparcp.co.uk</p>
Allied health professions	<p>Physiotherapist</p> <p>Physiotherapists help patients regain movement lost through illness, accident or ageing.</p>	<p>BSc in physiotherapy leading to eligibility to apply for professional registration with the Health and Care Professions Council. There are also postgraduate courses for graduates with an appropriate degree.</p>	<p>You will need tolerance, patience and compassion. You must also be able to build up a rapport with patients of all ages, their families or carers and other medical and social services staff.</p>	<p>Chartered Society of Physiotherapy Tel: 020 7306 6666 www.csp.org.uk</p> <p>Health and Care Professions Council Tel: 0300 500 6184 www.hcpc-uk.org</p>
Allied health professions	<p>Podiatrist</p> <p>Podiatrists (or chiropodists) 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.</p>	<p>BSc in podiatry leading to eligibility to apply for professional registration with the Health and Care Professions Council.</p>	<p>You will need the ability to communicate with patients of all ages from infants to the elderly. You will be patient, understanding and have a steady hand.</p>	<p>Health and Care Professions Council Tel: 0300 500 6184 www.hcpc-uk.org</p> <p>Society of Chiropodists and Podiatrists Tel: 0845 450 3729 www.scpod.org</p>

	Description of work	Minimum qualifications	Skills/Qualities	Contact details
Wider healthcare team	<p>Porter</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Training is given on the job. There are no formal entry requirements, although some larger hospitals may require their porters to have a driving licence.</p>	<p>You need to be physically fit and able to walk long distances. Communication skills and a friendly manner are also useful, as you will be helping patients of all ages around the hospital.</p>	<p>Contact your nearest NHS healthcare provider. Visit www.nhs.uk and search for vacancies on www.jobs.nhs.uk</p>
Allied health professions	<p>Prosthetist</p> <p>Prosthetists provide the best possible replacement for patients who were born without a limb or who have lost one. They work with patients and technicians at every stage from designing the prosthesis to helping patients adjust to life with a new limb.</p>	<p>Four year full-time BSc in prosthetics and orthotics followed by registration with the Health and Care Professions Council.</p> <p>Once registered as a practitioner, you can choose to specialise either as a prosthetist or an orthotist.</p>	<p>You will need creative and technical skills to measure and create limbs that look and feel as natural as possible. You will also need patience and understanding to work closely with patients who may be traumatised.</p>	<p>British Association of Prosthetists and Orthotists Tel: 0141 561 7217 Email: enquiries@bapo.com www.bapo.com</p> <p>Health and Care Professions Council Tel: 0300 500 6184 www.hcpc-uk.org</p>
Doctor	<p>Psychiatrist</p> <p>Psychiatrists are doctors who specialise in mental illness, and the interaction between physical and mental conditions. They can specialise to work with children and adolescents, adults or the elderly and in areas including forensic or intellectual disability psychiatry.</p>	<p>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 psychiatry.</p>	<p>You'll need empathy, compassion and emotional resilience. You'll need to be able to work under pressure, take initiative in challenging situations, be good at team working and have an analytical and scientific approach.</p>	<p>Royal College of Psychiatrists www.rcpsych.ac.uk</p> <p>General Medical Council www.gmc-uk.org</p>
Psychological therapies	<p>Psychological wellbeing practitioner</p> <p>Psychological wellbeing practitioners (PWWs) provide help and support to clients with mild to moderate depression, using a cognitive behavioural model.</p>	<p>To train, applicants first need to secure a post as a trainee PWP. To apply, they need a degree (eg in psychology) and take a postgraduate certificate. Non-graduate applicants from local communities with a range of experience can also apply and will be trained to graduate level.</p>	<p>You need to have an interest in people's behaviour and excellent communication skills. Voluntary, paid or personal experience of working with people with mental health problems is essential.</p>	<p>British Association of Behavioural and Cognitive Psychotherapies www.babcp.com</p> <p>Improving Access to Psychological Therapies www.iapt.nhs.uk</p>

	Description of work	Minimum qualifications	Skills/Qualities	Contact details
Psychological therapies	<p>Psychologist</p> <p>Psychologists look at the way people think, act, react and interact. The NHS employs psychologists in four main specialisms: clinical, forensic, counselling and health psychology.</p>	<p>Psychologists must be registered with the Health and Care Professions Council. Eligibility to apply for registration can be gained through either a British Psychological Society (BPS) accredited degree (or Master's degree), or a psychology degree plus BPS qualifying exam, or a conversion course. This must be followed by an HCPC-approved postgraduate training programme in the relevant specialism.</p>	<p>You will need to be numerate and have good written skills. Although not all psychologists work with patients, good communication skills are useful. An interest in how people think and behave is important.</p>	<p>British Psychological Society Tel: 0116 254 9568 Email: enquiries@bps.org.uk www.bps.org.uk</p> <p>Health and Care Professions Council Tel: 0300 500 6184 www.hcpc-uk.org</p>
Psychological therapies	<p>Psychotherapist</p> <p>Psychotherapists use a psychological approach to treat adults and children for a wide range of mental and physical difficulties including stress, relationship problems and troublesome behaviour or habits.</p>	<p>Training in various approaches to psychotherapy (combining study with clinical training) is provided by a range of organisations and typically lasts for a minimum of four years. Candidates usually need a good honours degree (or equivalent) to enter training and are usually required to be registered psychiatrists or psychologists or other mental health professionals.</p>	<p>Your own personality will play an important role in both training and later work. You will also need excellent communication skills and a desire to work closely with people, as well as an interest in people's behaviour.</p>	<p>Association of Child Psychotherapists Tel: 020 7281 8479 www.childpsychotherapy.org.uk</p> <p>British Psychoanalytic Council Tel: 020 7561 9240 Email: mail@psychoanalytic-council.org www.psychoanalytic-council.org</p> <p>The Royal College of Psychiatrists Tel: 020 7235 2351 www.rcpsych.ac.uk</p> <p>United Kingdom Council for Psychotherapy Tel: 020 7014 9955 Email: info@ukcp.org.uk www.psychotherapy.org.uk</p>
Allied health professions	<p>Radiographer</p> <p>There are two types of radiographer. Diagnostic radiographers carry out the imaging techniques, such as x-rays, used to help diagnose a range of conditions. Therapeutic radiographers are responsible for radiation treatment for cancer patients, and for their wellbeing during treatment.</p>	<p>A degree in radiography and registration with the Health and Care Professions Council. There are also postgraduate courses for graduates with an appropriate degree.</p>	<p>You need the confidence to work with leading-edge technology, and the ability to learn new skills and adapt. You need to be able to communicate well with other members of the team. Therapeutic radiographers see patients over many weeks and need to be able to build a rapport with them.</p>	<p>Health and Care Professions Council Tel: 0300 500 6184 www.hcpc-uk.org</p> <p>Society and College of Radiographers Tel: 020 7740 7200 www.sor.org or www.radiographycareers.co.uk</p>
Wider healthcare team	<p>Receptionist and telephonist</p> <p>Receptionists and telephonists deal with telephone and face-to-face enquiries across a range of healthcare organisations, using telephone and computer equipment.</p>	<p>On-the-job training is usually provided. There are no formal entry requirements but some experience and computer skills may be needed. Employers may look for a good general education.</p>	<p>As the first point of contact within the NHS, you need to be able to communicate well, remaining calm and clear when dealing with patients and relatives who may be distressed.</p>	<p>Association of Medical Secretaries, Practice Managers and Receptionists (AMSPAR) Tel: 020 7387 6005 Email: info@amspar.com www.amspar.com</p>

	Description of work	Minimum qualifications	Skills/Qualities	Contact details
Ambulance service	<p>Senior paramedic</p> <p>Senior paramedics treat patients at the scene of an accident, in their homes, at out-of-hours GP surgeries or at minor injuries units. They also help patients manage long-term conditions.</p>	Senior paramedics are qualified paramedics who have had extended training leading to a higher education qualification. See page 34 for paramedic entry and information on the qualifications required.	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.	Contact your nearest ambulance service trust. Visit www.nhs.uk for details. College of Paramedics www.collegeofparamedics.co.uk
Wider healthcare team	<p>Skilled trades staff</p> <p>Skilled trades staff include carpenters, electricians, plumbers, tilers and bricklayers.</p>	Employers usually require a specific skill or vocational qualification, but applicants can also get posts based on their previous experience or proven ability.	You need the appropriate skills to work in your chosen field, and be able to work to consistently high standards.	Visit www.nhs.uk for details of local trusts and search for vacancies on www.jobs.nhs.uk
Allied health professions	<p>Speech and language therapist</p> <p>Speech and language therapists work with people of all ages who have problems with speech, from childhood lisps to elderly patients who have difficulties following a stroke.</p>	A three or four-year degree through an accredited university course or a two-year postgraduate course for graduates in an appropriate discipline and registration with the Health and Care Professions Council.	You will need excellent language, communication and listening skills, patience, a calm manner and the tact to deal with patients who are often embarrassed by their condition. You will also need good hearing.	Health and Care Professions Council Tel: 0300 500 6184 www.hcpc-uk.org Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists Tel: 020 7378 1200 Email: info@rcslt.org www.rcslt.org
Management	<p>Sterile services/decontamination services manager</p> <p>Sterile services managers (sometimes known as decontamination service managers) are responsible for the sterile supplies needed for patient care and for ensuring that re-usable medical equipment is properly disinfected or decontaminated. Senior managers will be responsible for staff and budgets within the decontamination service they manage.</p>	Senior managers will typically need a postgraduate degree or equivalent level of knowledge and several years experience of working in decontamination services at more junior levels.	You need meticulous attention to detail, and to be able to instil this in others.	Institute of Decontamination Sciences Tel: 01506 811077 Email: idsc@fitwise.co.uk www.idsc-uk.co.uk
Wider healthcare team	<p>Stores staff</p> <p>Stores staff order, maintain and deliver medical and other supplies, often keeping track of orders and stock on computer systems.</p>	On-the-job-training is provided and there may be a chance to work towards a professional qualification. There are no formal entry requirements. Apprenticeships in stores work are sometimes available. See page 5 for general information about searching and applying for apprenticeships.	You will need to be literate, good with numbers and have a methodical approach, as you will be handling expensive stock. Computer skills are an advantage.	Contact your nearest NHS healthcare provider. Visit www.nhs.uk and search for vacancies on www.jobs.nhs.uk

	Description of work	Minimum qualifications	Skills/Qualities	Contact details
Allied health professions	<p>Therapy assistant</p> <p>Therapy assistants work alongside allied health professionals such as physiotherapists, radiographers, podiatrists and speech and language therapists. They play an essential role, preparing patients for therapy, setting up equipment and helping during therapy sessions.</p>	<p>There are no formal entry requirements. Training is in-service and there may be opportunities to progress to an allied health profession, depending on the profession and whether the employer is prepared to support progression.</p> <p>Apprenticeships in clinical support related roles are often available. See page 5 for general information about searching and applying for apprenticeships.</p>	<p>You will need to be able to work as part of a team, while being able to follow instructions efficiently. Above all, you should want to work closely with patients and be able to communicate with them in a friendly and reassuring way.</p>	<p>Contact your nearest NHS healthcare provider. Visit www.nhs.uk and search for vacancies on www.jobs.nhs.uk</p>
Wider healthcare team	<p>Ward clerk</p> <p>Ward clerks maintain paperwork and computer records, and deal with telephone enquiries on a hospital ward.</p>	<p>There are no formal entry requirements, but employers may require some GCSEs including English and maths (or equivalent). On-the-job training will be provided.</p> <p>Apprenticeships in administration are often available. See page 5 for general information about searching and applying for apprenticeships.</p>	<p>Good communication skills and an ability to maintain confidentiality are essential. You will also need to be well organised, and have a high standard of literacy and numeracy. Administration and computer skills would be useful.</p>	<p>Contact your nearest NHS healthcare provider. Visit www.nhs.uk and search for vacancies on www.jobs.nhs.uk</p>

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Notes

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**For further copies of this booklet
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