

A career for you in the NHS



FOR FURTHER COPIES OF THIS BOOKLET PLEASE CONTACT:

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Introduction

THE NHS – THERE IS A JOB FOR YOU

Did you know there are more than 300 careers in the NHS?

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

This booklet is a handy guide to some of those jobs. It is by no means a full list of professions in the NHS, but it gives you some idea of the sheer number and variety of opportunities.

How to use this booklet

The booklet lists jobs alphabetically, with the following information in brief:

- a description of the job
- the minimum qualifications you need to perform that role in the NHS
- the skills/qualities you need
- contact details to find out more

Each job is colour coded; this shows which area of the NHS it falls under (for example nursing or management).

Often there is more than one entry route to an NHS career. If you are interested in a career listed here, or one that is not listed here, contact NHS Careers on 0345 60 60 655, email advice@nhscareers.nhs.uk or visit our website www.nhscareers.nhs.uk

You can also contact your local hospital or trust and speak to the human resources or personnel department, or ask your local careers organisation.

Job vacancies for all careers can be found on www.jobs.nhs.uk

ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONS

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.

AMBULANCE SERVICE

The ambulance service includes both the non-emergency service, which is responsible for the vast majority of patient transport, and 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.

MEDICAL AND DENTAL

Doctors diagnose and treat illnesses and work to prevent ill health and improve well-being. The dental team diagnoses and treats a wide range of problems affecting the mouth, teeth and gums.

MANAGEMENT

Professionals who manage the people, the finance and the provision of equipment, buildings and services the NHS needs to deliver healthcare effectively.

NURSING

Nurses work in hospitals and the community to nurse sick and injured adults and children back to health, 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.

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.

HEALTHCARE SCIENCE

Healthcare scientists 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.

WIDER HEALTHCARE TEAM

Staff in the wider healthcare team may have less direct patient contact, but provide a massive back-up operation around the clock in all NHS organisations, including hospitals, GP surgeries and nursing homes.

	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 are part of the non-emergency ambulance service.</p>	<p>A good general education and a clean driving licence is 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, some 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 for details.</p>
Healthcare Science	<p>Anatomical pathology technologist</p> <p>Anatomical pathology technologists assist the pathologist, a specialist doctor, in examining patients who have died and identifying the cause of death. They also support bereaved relatives.</p>	<p>There are no minimum entry qualifications, though good English and arithmetic and an aptitude for science is helpful. You will be trained while doing the job, leading to a certificate in anatomical pathology technology.</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 (UK) Tel: 020 7278 2151 Email: mail@aaptuk.org www.aaptuk.org</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) takes 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 schools of architecture also accept BTEC and other qualifications.</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>

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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. In this way, they promote their well-being and recovery.</p>	<p>This is mainly for graduates with a relevant degree and postgraduate diploma. Diplomas can be achieved through either full- or part-time study on courses approved by the Health Professions Council (HPC). Professionals such as teachers or psychologists who have a commitment to the visual arts may also be considered as arts therapists. The relevant diploma allows you to register with the HPC.</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 Drama Therapists Tel: 01242 235515 Email: enquiries@badth.org.uk www.badth.org.uk</p> <p>British Society for Music Therapy Tel: 020 7837 6100 Email: info@bsmt.org www.bsmt.org</p> <p>Association of Professional Music Therapists Email: APMToffice@aol.com Tel: 020 7837 6100 www.apmt.org</p> <p>Health Professions Council Tel: 020 7582 0866 www.hpc-uk.org</p>
Healthcare Science	<p>Audiologist</p> <p>Audiologists 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 three-year BSc in Audiology, a one-year MSc in Audiology, with an 18-24 month placement, requiring a good relevant science degree, or a postgraduate conversion diploma for those with a good BSc in a relevant science subject or the new BSc (Hons) in Healthcare Science.</p> <p>To register as a qualified audiologist, you also need to gain assessed clinical skills, either on a course or in a post.</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 504 066 Email: admin@baaudiology.org www.baaudiology.org</p> <p>Training posts are advertised on www.jobs.nhs.uk, as well as in some national papers and the scientific press.</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 a biomedical science degree or a relevant science degree followed by a postgraduate qualification, which can be done on day-release or the new BSc (Hons) in Healthcare Science. Biomedical scientists must register with the Health Professions Council after training.</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>Institute of Biomedical Science Tel: 020 7713 0214 Email: mail@ibms.org www.ibms.org</p> <p>Health Professions Council Tel: 020 7582 0866 www.hpc-uk.org</p> <p>Training posts are advertised on www.jobs.nhs.uk, as well as in some national papers and the scientific press.</p>

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Ambulance Service	<p>Call handler</p> <p>As part of the control room team, you will answer the 999 telephone calls to the ambulance service.</p>	You will get in-service training but most employers ask for a good general education.	You will need to be calm in pressurised situations when you need to get essential information from a caller quickly and accurately.	Contact your nearest ambulance service trust. Visit www.nhs.uk for details.
Healthcare Science	<p>Cardiographer</p> <p>Cardiographers work directly with patients from newborn babies to older people, recording electrocardiograms (ECGs), and analysing the images they produce of the heart.</p>	Varies from trust to trust, but generally 5 GCSEs, including English and Maths or equivalent qualification. You will receive on-the-job training.	You need a calm manner and sympathetic understanding of patients and relatives anxieties.	Society for Cardiological Science and Technology (SCST) Tel: 0845 838 6037 Email: admin@scst.org.uk www.scst.org.uk
Healthcare Science	<p>Cardiac physiologist</p> <p>Cardiac physiologists investigate the functioning of the heart and use a wide variety of equipment to help the heart, such as pacemakers.</p>	A BSc in clinical physiology, or you can first be accepted onto a traineeship or the new BSc (Hons) in Healthcare Science. You will then complete your degree in clinical physiology on a part time basis.	You need to be friendly and professional as well as being calm, confident and sympathetic.	Society for Cardiological Science and Technology (SCST) Tel: 0845 838 6037 Email: admin@scst.org.uk www.scst.org.uk Training posts are advertised on www.jobs.nhs.uk , as well as in some national papers and the scientific press.
Wider Healthcare Team	<p>Catering assistant</p> <p>Catering assistants are part of a team committed to making sure food and drink for patients are nutritious and appetising.</p>	Trusts' requirements vary, but a foundation course in food hygiene may be an advantage.	You will need to be able to work as part of a busy team in a fast-moving environment, to have good personal hygiene and a courteous manner when you come into contact with patients.	Hospital Caterers Association Email: hca@lansdownepublishing.com www.hospitalcaterers.org
Wider Healthcare Team	<p>Catering manager</p> <p>Catering managers run catering departments and manage their staff, with responsibility for providing patients and staff with nutritious food.</p>	Relevant degree, HND/BTEC or the equivalent qualification from the Institute of Hospitality.	You will need to be an enthusiastic team leader who can motivate staff and manage budgets.	Hospital Caterers Association www.hospitalcaterers.org Institute of Hospitality. Tel: 020 8661 4900 www.instituteofhospitality.org

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Wider Healthcare Team	<p>Cleaner</p> <p>Cleaners make sure patients receive care in a safe and hygienic environment and play an important part in infection control.</p>	No minimum requirements.	You need to be hard working, conscientious and able to work unsupervised.	
Healthcare Science	<p>Clinical biochemist</p> <p>Clinical biochemists 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>	A good honours degree in biochemistry, chemistry or another science subject with a substantial biochemistry component or the new BSc (Hons) in Healthcare Science. Clinical biochemists must register with the Health Professions Council after training.	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 clinicians who you will be advising.	<p>Association for Clinical Biochemistry Tel: 020 7403 8001 Email: admin@acb.org.uk www.acb.org.uk</p> <p>Health Professions Council Tel: 020 7582 0866mm www.hpc-uk.org</p> <p>Training posts are advertised on www.jobs.nhs.uk, as well as in some national papers and the scientific press.</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 you need a good general education, including GCSE Maths and English or equivalent, and to be reasonably familiar with computers.</p> <p>You will be trained on the job and eventually take the Accredited Clinical Coders exam.</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.</p>	<p>Institute of Health Record Information and Management Tel: 01706 868481 Email: ihrim@zen.co.uk www.ihrim.co.uk</p>
Healthcare Science	<p>Clinical cytogeneticist</p> <p>Clinical cytogeneticists are experts in studying chromosomes from samples of human blood, tissues or bodily fluids to diagnose genetic disease, including leukaemia and cancer.</p>	Good honours degree in a science subject. Training leads to a Postgraduate Certificate of the Association of Clinical Cytogeneticists or the new BSc (Hons) in Healthcare Science. Clinical cytogeneticists must register with the Health Professions Council after training.	Working in small laboratories, you need to be a good team member and to have good powers of concentration for microscope work. You need to work quickly with meticulous accuracy.	<p>Association of Clinical Cytogenetics Tel: 01865 226001 Email: acc@cytogenetics.org.uk www.cytogenetics.org.uk</p> <p>Health Professions Council Tel: 020 7582 0866 www.hpc-uk.org</p> <p>Training posts are advertised on www.jobs.nhs.uk, as well as in some national papers and the scientific press.</p>

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Healthcare Science	<p>Clinical engineer</p> <p>Clinical engineers, or bio-engineers, 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>An honours degree in electrical, electronic or mechanical engineering, accredited by the Institution of Electrical Engineers UK or the Institute of Mechanical Engineers. Alternatively the new BSc (Hons) in Healthcare Science is now recognised as a suitable qualification. Clinical engineers must register with the Health Professions Council, for which you need an MSc in biomechanical engineering, accredited by the Institute of Physics and Engineering in Medicine.</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> <p>Training posts are advertised on www.jobs.nhs.uk, as well as in some national papers and the scientific press.</p>
Healthcare Science	<p>Clinical immunologist</p> <p>Clinical immunologists investigate the body's immune system and work closely with doctors to develop new tests and treatments for a range of disorders, including autoimmune diseases, allergies and transplant rejection.</p>	<p>Good honours degree in a relevant biological science or the new BSc (Hons) in Healthcare Science. Clinical immunologists must register with the Health Professions Council after training.</p>	<p>You need to master sophisticated molecular techniques to treat diseases like AIDS, allergies and leukaemia. You may choose to work in a more academic environment carrying out experiments, or directly with patients running specialised clinics.</p>	<p>British Society for Immunology Tel: 020 3031 9800 Email: onlinecommunity@immunology.org www.immunology.org</p> <p>Association of Clinical Scientists in Immunology www.acsi.org.uk</p> <p>Health Professions Council Tel: 020 7582 0866 www.hpc-uk.org</p> <p>Training posts are advertised on www.jobs.nhs.uk, as well as in some national papers and the scientific press.</p>
Healthcare Science	<p>Clinical microbiologist</p> <p>Clinical microbiologists 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>Good honours degree in microbiology or other relevant biological science or the new BSc (Hons) in Healthcare Science. Clinical microbiologists must register with the Health Professions Council after training.</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>Association of Clinical Microbiology www.aclinmicrobiol.org.uk</p> <p>Health Professions Council Tel: 020 7582 0866 www.hpc-uk.org</p> <p>Training posts are advertised on www.jobs.nhs.uk, as well as in some national papers and the scientific press.</p>
Healthcare Science	<p>Clinical perfusionist</p> <p>Perfusion scientists are vital members of the open-heart surgery team, responsible for life-support equipment.</p>	<p>Training is a mix of practical experience and academic study leading to a BSc in clinical sciences (perfusion), followed by a professional exam or the new BSc (Hons) in Healthcare Science. Minimum entry requirements are two science A levels or equivalent, but those with degrees will train for less time.</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 can be lengthy and intricate.</p>	<p>Society of Clinical Perfusion Scientists of Great Britain and Ireland Tel: 020 7869 6891 Email: admin@sopgbi.freemove.co.uk www.scps.org.uk</p> <p>Training posts are advertised on www.jobs.nhs.uk, as well as in some national papers and the scientific press.</p>

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Healthcare Science	<p>Clinical photographer</p> <p>Clinical photographers 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 clinical photography is required. Applicants with a degree in another photographic discipline can apply for a trainee position and take a one year graduate or post graduate certificate in clinical photography whilst working. Either route will qualify you for membership of the Institute of Medical Illustrators.</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 Email: enquiries@imi.org.uk Tel: 020 7837 2846 www.imi.org.uk</p>
Healthcare Science	<p>Clinical scientist in histocompatibility and immunogenetics</p> <p>These members of the healthcare science team work to match donors with patients before transplants.</p>	<p>A good honours degree in the biomedical sciences (biochemistry, genetics, immunology and related subjects) or the new BSc (Hons) in Healthcare Science. Clinical scientists must register with the Health Professions Council after training.</p>	<p>You need to have high academic and scientific standards to keep abreast of the latest research and knowledge and to accept the high level of responsibility for transplant patients' welfare that the job brings.</p>	<p>British Society for Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics www.bshi.org.uk</p> <p>Health Professions Council Tel: 020 7582 0866 www.hpc-uk.org</p> <p>Training posts are advertised on www.jobs.nhs.uk, as well as in some national papers and the scientific press.</p>
Healthcare Science	<p>Cytotechnologist (Cervical cytology screener)</p> <p>Cytotechnologists 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 are an advantage. Other qualifications may be considered. You train on the job and sit for the Cervical Screening Programme Certificate in order 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>National Association of Cytologists www.nac.org.uk</p>
Dental	<p>Dental hygienist</p> <p>Dental hygienists work to keep patients' teeth and gums healthy. They scale and polish patients' teeth and educate them to prevent tooth decay and gum disease.</p>	<p>You need five GCSEs A-C (or equivalent qualifications), including English and one science, and either two A levels, or a recognised dental nursing qualification. Hygienists must register with the General Dental Council to practise. To do so, you need a UK Diploma in Dental Hygiene.</p>	<p>You need to be manually dextrous, with good eyesight and colour vision. You are in direct contact with patients, so also need good communication skills and a friendly manner.</p>	<p>British Society of Dental Hygiene and Therapy Tel: 01452 886365 Email: enquiries@bsdht.org.uk www.bsdht.org.uk</p> <p>General Dental Council Tel: 020 7887 3800 Email: cait@gdc-uk.org 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>No formal academic qualifications needed. Dental nurses must register with the General Dental Council. There are several routes or qualifications to registration.</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. You may need to reassure nervous patients.</p>	<p>British Association of Dental Nurses Tel: 01253 338 360 Email: admin@badn.org.uk www.badn.org.uk</p> <p>General Dental Council Tel: 020 7887 3800 Email: cait@gdc-uk.org www.gdc-uk.org</p>

Description of work		Minimum qualifications	Skills/Qualities	Contact details
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>	Five GCSEs A-C or equivalent, and either two A levels or a nationally-recognised dental nursing qualification, needed for a UK diploma in Dental Therapy. Dental technicians must register with the General Dental Council.	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>Dental Technologists Association Tel: 08702 430 753 www.dta-uk.org</p> <p>General Dental Council Tel: 020 7887 3800 www.gdc-uk.org</p>
Dental	<p>Dental therapist</p> <p>Dental therapists carry out simple treatments, such as simple fillings and extractions, usually for children, older people and those with special needs. A therapist also promotes oral health, teaching people about dental hygiene.</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. To do so, you need a UK Diploma in Dental Therapy.	You need to be manually dextrous, with good eyesight and colour vision. A sympathetic manner is essential to treat and advise patients.	<p>British Association of Dental Therapists Tel: 07800 728082 www.badt.org.uk</p> <p>General Dental Council Tel: 020 7887 3800 Email: cait@gdc-uk.org 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.</p>	Most people will need three very good A levels, including chemistry (or equivalent), to enter an approved dental surgery degree, although some pre-dental years are available for applicants with non-science subjects. Some graduate entry courses also available. Dentists must register with the General Dental Council.	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>British Dental Association Tel: 020 7935 0875 Email: enquiries@bda.org www.bda.org</p> <p>General Dental Council Tel: 020 7887 3800 Email: cait@gdc-uk.org www.gdc-uk.org</p>
Allied Health Professions	<p>Dietitian</p> <p>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.</p>	Dietitians must register with the Health Professions Council. To do so, you need an approved qualification in dietetics at BSc level, or if you have a first degree in an appropriate subject, at postgraduate level.	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.	<p>British Dietetic Association Tel: 0121 200 8080 Email: info@bda.uk.com www.bda.uk.com</p> <p>Health Professions Council Tel: 020 7582 0866 www.hpc-uk.org</p>
Medical	<p>Doctor</p> <p>Doctors can have very varied careers, the key elements of which are to examine patients, diagnose their illness and prescribe treatment. There is huge scope to specialise, or to work in preventative medicine.</p>	High academic standards are essential to enter medical school. A wide range of GCSEs, plus 3 A levels, or equivalent, usually in Maths and Science, although a pre-medical year offers opportunities for applicants with non-science A levels. Once qualified with a Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery, doctors must register with the General Medical Council to practise.	Different doctors bring different skills to the team. The job is academically demanding, very hard work and can be emotionally taxing. Important abilities are an enquiring mind, concern for people, a rational approach and the ability to handle pressure.	<p>British Medical Association Tel: 020 7387 4499 www.bma.org.uk</p> <p>Or contact the dean of any medical school.</p>

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Wider Healthcare Team	<p>Drivers</p> <p>Drivers are employed in a range of roles across the NHS, such as in the non-emergency ambulance service. They transport supplies, patients, pathology specimens or even organs for transplantation.</p>	An appropriate driving licence, depending on the type of vehicle you will be driving.	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.	
Ambulance Service	<p>Emergency care assistant</p> <p>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.</p>	A good general education and clean driving licence is usually required. Recruitment is managed locally by individual 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.
Ambulance Service	<p>Emergency care practitioner (ECP)</p> <p>Emergency care practitioners 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>	In-service training leading to a higher education qualification. ECPs are qualified healthcare professionals from diverse backgrounds, such as paramedics, nurses and physiotherapists, who have had extended training.	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.
Ambulance Service	<p>Emergency medical dispatcher</p> <p>Emergency medical dispatchers are responsible for sending an emergency vehicle to an incident as quickly and with as much information as possible.</p>	You will get in-service training but 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 ability is required.	Contact your nearest ambulance service trust. Visit www.nhs.uk for details.
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>	NHS administrative and clerical staff may be able to work towards qualifications awarded by the Association of Accounting Technicians or those recognised by the Consultancy Committee of Accountancy Bodies. Periodically development opportunities become available for internal and external applicants through a graduate training scheme. For the latest information see the website.	You will need excellent mathematical skills, a methodical mind and an eye for detail.	<p>Association of Accounting Technicians Tel: 0845 863 0800 Email: aat@aat.org.uk www.aat.co.uk</p> <p>NHS Graduate Training Schemes Tel: 0845 300 1426 Email: graduates@lead.institute.nhs.uk www.nhsgraduates.co.uk</p>
Wider Healthcare Team	<p>Gardener</p> <p>Gardeners look after the plants, shrubs and lawns at NHS premises.</p>	Different areas have different entry requirements. If you don't already have a vocational qualification, you may be able to get a post on the basis of experience or proven ability.	You need to enjoy working outdoors, be enthusiastic about plants and capable of the physical work gardening involves.	

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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 NHS staff with appropriate experience are encouraged to apply for vacancies. Periodically development opportunities become available for internal and external applicants through a graduate training scheme. For the latest information see the website.</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 Training Schemes Tel: 0845 300 1426 Email: graduates@lead.institute.nhs.uk www.nhsgraduates.co.uk</p>
Wider Healthcare Team	<p>Health promotion specialist</p> <p>Health promotion officers plan and publicise ways to stay healthy and prevent disease. They work on campaigns from smoking cessation to sexual health.</p>	<p>To train in this career you 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 you 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 you will enjoy finding new ways of promoting a healthy lifestyle.</p>	<p>Royal Society for Public Health Tel: 020 3177 1600 www.rsph.org</p> <p>Faculty of Public Health Tel: 020 7935 0243 Email: enquiries@fph.org.uk www.fph.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 health professionals for their care, for example in outpatient clinics.</p>	<p>No formal qualifications, although you are likely to need computing skills and a good general education.</p>	<p>You need to be able to stay calm under pressure, to be good with people and have the ability to maintain strict confidentiality.</p>	<p>Institute of Health Record and Information Management Tel: 01706 868481 Email: ihrim@zen.co.uk www.ihrim.co.uk</p>
Wider Healthcare Team	<p>Hospital play staff</p> <p>Play staff organise daily play and art activities in the 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>Hospital play assistants will usually need a Nursery Nurses Examination Board (NNEB) qualification or an NVQ level 3 in childcare.</p> <p>A basic-grade hospital play specialist will usually need to hold a level 4 diploma in specialised play for sick children and young people/Edexcel certificate in hospital play specialism. They may also need NHS training in child protection issues.</p> <p>Senior level hospital play staff will usually need to hold a level 4 diploma in specialised play for children and young people/or equivalent qualification recognised by the Hospital Play Staff Education Trust. They will usually require relevant post-qualification experience.</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>National Association of Hospital Play Staff (NAHPS) www.nahps.org.uk</p> <p>Hospital Play Staff Education Trust www.hpset.org.uk</p>
Wider Healthcare Team	<p>Housekeeper</p> <p>Housekeepers help senior nurses run hospital wards by coordinating a range of ward services: 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>	

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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. Periodically development opportunities become available for internal and external applicants through a graduate training scheme. For the latest information see the website.</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 Training Schemes Tel: 0845 300 1426 Email: graduates@lead.institute.nhs.uk www.nhsgraduates.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>There are no minimum requirements, but some GCSEs (or equivalent) or work experience may be an advantage. To do the job, you will usually be trained in Microsoft Windows operating systems and Microsoft Office.</p>	<p>You need enthusiasm, to be a team player and be able to work efficiently in a very busy environment.</p>	<p>Health informatics career framework www.hicf.org.uk</p>
Health Informatics	<p>IT trainer</p> <p>IT trainers are responsible for training a range of healthcare professionals and supporting admin staff in computer skills so they can use a number of information and communication systems effectively, and make the most of the national IT programme 'Connecting for Health'.</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 both to 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>Institute of IT Training Tel: 0845 0068858 Email: info@iitt.org.uk www.iitt.org.uk</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>	
Health Informatics	<p>Libraries and knowledge manager</p> <p>This role is to 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, as well as management experience.</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 Email: info@cilip.org.uk www.cilip.org.uk</p> <p>Health informatics career framework www.hicf.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>The requirements of trusts will vary. You may need a few academic qualifications or specific craft qualifications as a carpenter, painter and decorator or electrician, for example. Contact employers for their requirements.</p>	<p>You will need a conscientious attitude and be able to work to consistent, high standards. 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.</p>

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Nursing & 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>	There are no minimum entry qualifications, although you will need a good general education. You may be able to extend your role and your qualifications while earning a salary.	You will need to have a caring attitude and an interest in mothers and small babies.	
Wider Healthcare Team	<p>Medical secretary</p> <p>Medical secretaries deal with consultants' or GPs' correspondence and provide essential secretarial support.</p>	There are no formal requirements but most trusts will require a good all-round education and some may ask for RSA (or equivalent) qualifications. You may also be able to work towards a diploma in medical secretarial studies through the Association of Medical Secretaries, Practice Managers and Receptionists.	Secretarial and computer skills are essential. You'll need accuracy, organisational ability and good communication skills.	<p>British Society of Medical Secretaries Tel: 0131 466 0682 www.bsmsa.org.uk</p> <p>Association of Medical Secretaries, Practice Managers and Receptionists (AMSPAR) Tel: 020 7387 6005 Email: info@amspar.com www.amspar.com</p>
Healthcare Science	<p>Medical physicist</p> <p>Medical physicists 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>	Two years in-service training, often incorporating an MSc, followed by registration with the Health Professions Council or the new BSc (Hons) in Healthcare Science. Entrants usually require a good honours degree in physics or a related science.	You will need a strong aptitude for science as well as the ability to communicate with doctors and patients alike.	<p>Institution of Physics and Engineering in Medicine Tel: 01904 610821 Email: office@ipem.ac.uk www.ipem.org.uk</p> <p>Health Professions Council Tel: 020 7582 0866 www.hpc-uk.org</p> <p>Training posts are advertised on www.jobs.nhs.uk, as well as in some national papers and the scientific press.</p>
Healthcare Science	<p>Medical technologist</p> <p>Medical technologists help operate and maintain a range of hi-tech diagnostic equipment, such as body scanners. They may also be involved in nuclear medicine, calculating doses and preparing radioactive materials.</p>	Either an accredited diploma or degree or two years' on-the-job training or the new BSc (Hons) in Healthcare Science. There are no formal entry requirements for on-the-job training but employers usually look for four GCSEs at grade C or above. Some posts may require higher qualifications.	You will need to have an interest in science and technology and the confidence to work with complex and expensive equipment. Medical staff will rely on you so you will need to pay attention to detail. This should be coupled with an ability to put patients at ease.	<p>Institution of Physics and Engineering in Medicine Tel: 01904 610821 Email: office@ipem.ac.uk www.ipem.org.uk</p> <p>Training posts are advertised on www.jobs.nhs.uk, as well as in some national papers and the scientific press.</p>
Nursing & Midwifery	<p>Midwife</p> <p>Midwives help mothers-to-be and their families throughout pregnancy, labour and the first days of 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>	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.	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>Royal College of Midwives Tel: 020 7312 3535 Email: info@rcm.org.uk www.rcm.org.uk</p> <p>Nursing and Midwifery Council Tel: 020 7333 9333 Email: advice@nmc-uk.org www.nmc-uk.org</p>

	Description of work	Minimum qualifications	Skills/Qualities	Contact details
Nursing & Midwifery	<p>Nurse</p> <p>Includes the four initial branches of nursing: Registered Nurse (Adult), Registered Nurse (Mental Health), Registered Nurse (Learning Disability), Registered Nurse (Child)</p> <p>Nurses care for physically or mentally ill children and adults and provide support for their families, in hospitals and the community. The job can vary from helping someone learn to make a cup of tea to administering life-saving drugs.</p>	<p>A Diploma in Nursing or Degree in Nursing, leading to registration with the Nursing and Midwifery Council. You will usually need to choose a branch of nursing before you start training. Qualifications for entry to diploma and degree courses vary. Diploma courses will be phased out between September 2011 and early 2013. For example, some universities will only offer the new degree programme from September 2011, where others will continue to offer the diploma and current degree programmes throughout 2011 and 2012. By September 2013, all nursing programmes will be degree-only.</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>Royal College of Nursing Tel: 020 7409 3333 www.rcn.org.uk</p> <p>Nursing and Midwifery Council Tel: 020 7333 9333 Email: advice@nmc-uk.org www.nmc-uk.org</p>
Nursing & Midwifery	<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, while also spending time talking to and reassuring patients.</p>	<p>There are no minimum entry qualifications, although you will need a good general education. You may be able to extend your role and your qualifications while earning a salary.</p>	<p>You will need to have a caring attitude, sensitivity and the ability to relate to patients of all ages and backgrounds.</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.</p>	<p>A BSc in occupational therapy leading to registration with the Health Professions Council for which A levels or equivalent are required (eg a validated access course). Graduates can qualify via a two-year accelerated course.</p>	<p>You need patience, ingenuity, and a creative, practical approach. Most of all, you have to 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 Professions Council Tel: 020 7582 0866 www.hpc-uk.org</p>
Allied Health Professions	<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>Minimum of two-year programme leading to a Diploma in higher education in operating department practice, and registration with the Health Professions Council. Some institutions also offer a degree-level qualification.</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: 0870 746 0984 Email: office@aodp.org www.codp.org.uk</p> <p>Health Professions Council Tel: 020 7582 0866 www.hpc-uk.org</p>
Healthcare Science	<p>Optometrist</p> <p>Optometrists check eyesight and prescribe corrective lenses. They also play an important role in identifying various medical conditions, such as glaucoma.</p>	<p>A university degree in optometry followed by a year of clinical experience, during which time you will take the professional exam, prior to registration with the General Optical Council.</p>	<p>You will need both excellent communication and diagnostic skills, as you assess the vision of patients from young children to the elderly. You will also need to be patient and understanding.</p>	<p>General Optical Council Tel: 020 7580 3898 Email: goc@optical.org www.optical.org</p> <p>College of Optometrists www.college-optometrists.org</p>

Description of work		Minimum qualifications	Skills/Qualities	Contact details
Allied Health Professions	<p>Orthoptist</p> <p>Orthoptists diagnose and treat visual problems involving eye movement and alignment. They may also screen schoolchildren.</p>	Three-year full-time university degree followed by registration with the Health Professions Council.	You will want to work with people and have the ability to communicate with all ages from the very young to the very old. You will need precision and accuracy in your work.	<p>British and Irish Orthoptic Society Tel: 020 7387 7992 Email: bios@orthoptics.org.uk www.orthoptics.org.uk</p> <p>Health Professions Council Tel: 020 7582 0866 www.hpc-uk.org</p>
	<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>	Four-year, full-time BSc in prosthetics and orthotics followed by registration with the Health Professions Council.	<p>You will need patience and accuracy to take precise measurements that affect a patient's comfort and mobility.</p> <p>You will also have excellent communication skills needed to reassure patients and a talent for technical design.</p>	<p>British Association of Prosthetists and Orthotists Tel: 0845 166 8490 Email: admin@bapo.com www.bapo.com</p> <p>Health Professions Council Tel: 020 7582 0866 www.hpc-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>	You need to hold a suitable driving licence. Paramedics must register with the Health Professions Council. For this, you must take an HPC approved course, either on a full time basis or apply for a student paramedic post with an ambulance trust and complete the training part time.	You will need to be physically fit and mentally able to deal with a highly pressurised environment. You will be able to communicate with both children and adults, remaining calm even in highly distressing situations. You will also be a confident driver.	<p>Contact your nearest ambulance service trust. Visit www.nhs.uk for details.</p> <p>British Paramedic Association Tel: 01278 420014 www.collegeofparamedics.co.uk</p> <p>Health Professions Council Tel: 020 7582 0866 www.hpc-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>	Some senior PALS staff may be required to have a degree or professional level of qualification. PALS support staff will usually have a good general education and administrative skills.	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.	

	Description of work	Minimum qualifications	Skills/Qualities	Contact details
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, often frail and elderly, get to their health appointments safely and on time.</p>	Some employers ask for a certain number of GCSEs or the equivalent. Others look for a good general education.	You will need a calm, efficient approach under pressure and good communication skills.	Contact your nearest ambulance service trust. Visit www.nhs.uk for details.
Wider Healthcare Team	<p>Personal assistant</p> <p>Personal assistants provide comprehensive administration and secretarial support to senior staff.</p>	Employers' requirements may vary, but you are likely to need good spoken and written English, as well as keyboard skills and computer literacy.	You need to be well-organised, efficient and motivated. You need to have a pleasant manner, with excellent communication skills. You will also need discretion.	
Healthcare Science	<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>	A four-year masters degree in pharmacy, followed by a year in a pharmacy and a professional registration exam.	You will need to be strong on science and a good communicator with people at all levels. You must have excellent powers of concentration and hand-to-eye coordination. You will work well on your own and as part of a team.	Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain Tel: 020 7735 9141 Email: enquiries@rpsgb.org www.rpsgb.org or www.pharmacycareers.org.uk
Healthcare Science	<p>Pharmacy technician</p> <p>Pharmacy technicians prepare and supply medicines, which includes weighing out ingredients, counting tablets and measuring liquids.</p>	Two to three years' on-the-job training, leading to the NVQ3 in pharmacy services.	You will need normal colour vision, good scientific and numerical ability, a methodical and accurate approach and good powers of concentration. You will also need tact, discretion and the ability to explain complex instructions to patients clearly.	Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain Tel: 020 7735 9141 Email: careers@rpsgb.org www.rpsgb.org or www.pharmacycareers.org.uk The Association of Pharmacy Technicians Tel: 020 7551 1551 Email: pharmacytechnician@rpsgb.org www.aptuk.org
Healthcare Science	<p>Phlebotomist</p> <p>Phlebotomists collect blood from patients for examination in a laboratory, providing vital pointers for diagnosing illness.</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.	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

Description of work		Minimum qualifications	Skills/Qualities	Contact details
Allied Health Professions	<p>Physiotherapist</p> <p>Physiotherapists help patients regain movement lost through illness, accident or ageing.</p>	BSc in Physiotherapy leading to professional registration with the Health Professions Council. There are also postgraduate courses for graduates with an appropriate degree.	You will need tolerance, patience and compassion. You will also be able to build up a rapport with patients of all ages, their families or carers and other medical staff and social services staff.	<p>Chartered Society of Physiotherapy Tel: 020 7306 6666 Email: enquiries@csp.org.uk www.csp.org.uk</p> <p>Health Professions Council Tel: 020 7582 0866 www.hpc-uk.org</p>
Allied Health Professions	<p>Podiatrist</p> <p>Podiatrists (or chiropodists) see patients of all ages to diagnose and treat foot problems. These include verrucas, sports and dance injuries and circulation problems in patients at risk from amputation, such as those with diabetes.</p>	BSc in podiatry and registration with the Health Professions Council.	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>Society of Chiropodists and Podiatrists Tel: 0845 450 3720 Email: reception@scpod.org www.feetforlife.org</p> <p>Health Professions Council Tel: 020 7582 0866 www.hpc-uk.org</p>
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 transport complex and valuable equipment that may need expert handling.</p>	Training is given on the job. There are no formal entry requirements, although some larger hospitals may require you to have a driving licence.	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.	
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>	Four-year full-time BSc in prosthetics and orthotics followed by registration with the Health Professions Council.	You will need creative and technical skills to measure for and create a limb that looks and feels as natural as possible. You will also need patience and understanding to work closely with often traumatised patients.	<p>British Association of Prosthetists and Orthotists Tel: 0845 166 8490 Email: admin@bapo.com www.bapo.com</p> <p>Health Professions Council Tel: 020 7582 0866 www.hpc-uk.org</p>

Description of work		Minimum qualifications	Skills/Qualities	Contact details
Allied Health Professions	<p>Psychologist</p> <p>Psychologists look at the way people think, act, react and interact. The NHS employs psychologists in four main specialisms: clinical work, forensics, counselling and health psychology.</p>	<p>Registration with the Health Professions Council (HPC), through either a British Psychological Society (BPS) accredited degree (or masters degree or a good psychology degree plus BPS qualifying exam, or a conversion course) followed by an HPC-approved postgraduate training programme in the relevant specialism.</p>	<p>You will need to be numerate and to have good writing 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 Professions Council Tel: 020 7582 0866 www.hpc-uk.org</p>
Allied Health Professions	<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. You will usually need a good honours degree (or equivalent) to enter training. Applicants 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>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> <p>Association of Child Psychotherapists www.childpsychotherapy.org.uk</p> <p>British Psychoanalytic Council Tel: 020 7561 9240 Email: mail@psychoanalytic-council.org www.psychoanalytic-council.org</p>
Allied Health Professions	<p>Radiographer</p> <p>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 well being during treatment.</p>	<p>A degree in radiography, followed by registration with the Health 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>Society and College of Radiographers Tel: 020 7740 7200 www.sor.org or www.radiographycareers.co.uk</p> <p>Health Professions Council Tel: 020 7582 0866 www.hpc-uk.org</p>
Wider Healthcare Team	<p>Receptionist / Telephonist</p> <p>Receptionists and telephonists deal with telephone and face-to-face enquiries throughout the NHS, using telephone and computer equipment.</p>	<p>On-the-job training provided. No formal entry requirements but some experience and computer skills may be needed. Some 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>

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Healthcare Science	<p>Respiratory physiologist</p> <p>Clinical respiratory physiologists 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>Four years' on-the-job training for employees in hospital clinical physiology departments, leading to a BSc in clinical physiology or the new BSc (Hons) in Healthcare Science. Trainees are also required to have two A levels in science, or their equivalent. Those with higher qualifications may only train for two or three years.</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> <p>Training posts are advertised on www.jobs.nhs.uk, as well as in some national papers and the scientific press.</p>
Wider Healthcare Team	<p>Skilled trades staff</p> <p>Skilled trades staff include carpenters, electricians, plumbers, tilers and bricklayers.</p>	<p>Employers usually require a specific skill or vocational qualification. But you may get a post on the basis of experience or proven ability.</p>	<p>You need proven ability and skill in your chosen field, and the ability to work to consistently high standards.</p>	
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>	<p>A three- or four-year degree through an accredited university course or a two-year postgraduate course for graduates in an appropriate discipline, followed by registration with the Health Professions Council.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists Tel: 020 7378 1200 Email: info@rcslt.org www.rcslt.org</p> <p>Health Professions Council Tel: 020 7582 0866 www.hpc-uk.org</p>
Management	<p>Sterile services manager</p> <p>Sterile services managers are responsible for the sterile supplies needed for patient care and for ensuring that medical equipment is properly disinfected or decontaminated.</p>	<p>Up to three years on-the-job training to become a member of the Institute of Decontamination Sciences.</p>	<p>You need meticulous attention to detail, and to be able to instil this in others.</p>	<p>Institute of Decontamination Sciences Tel: 01506 811077 www.idsc-uk.org</p>

	Description of work	Minimum qualifications	Skills/Qualities	Contact details
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.</p>	<p>Training is on the job and there may be a chance to work towards professional-level qualifications. There are no formal entry requirements.</p>	<p>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.</p>	
Allied Health Professions	<p>Therapy assistant</p> <p>Therapy assistants work alongside 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 with the therapy.</p>	<p>Training is in service and there may be opportunities to progress to registered status, depending on the therapy concerned. There are no formal entry requirements.</p>	<p>You will want to work as a member of a team, while being able to follow instructions efficiently and happily. Above all you will want to work closely with patients and be able to communicate with them in a friendly and reassuring way.</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). You will receive on-the-job training for the role.</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>	