

Top 10 careers by Yr. 11

No.2 Health and Medical Careers

Opportunities in healthcare and medicine include those in:

- medicine, nursing and midwifery
- the allied health professions e.g. dietetics, physiotherapy and occupational therapy
- healthcare science
- medical illustration and photography
- the ambulance service
- dental, optical and pharmacy work
- health promotion
- complementary medicine.

There are also opportunities for support staff and those in administration, management and health informatics.

Education and training

There are opportunities at all levels, from jobs needing no entry qualifications to those requiring postgraduate study. For many areas of work, you start your training through a relevant full-time course. For other jobs, you train in the workplace.

For some jobs, it may be possible to get started through an Apprenticeship or a similar programme.

What it takes

To work in healthcare and medicine you need:

- good communication and teamworking skills
- to be reliable and conscientious
- sensitivity, tact and understanding (for those with patient contact)
- an interest in science and technology (for many jobs).

Prospects

The NHS has a well-structured career ladder, and there are prospects for promotion in most areas of work. The NHS provides opportunities for staff at all levels to improve their qualifications. Some jobs allow you to branch out, e.g. from nursing into health promotion.

While the NHS is the main employer, there are also opportunities for qualified staff in the private and voluntary sectors.

For further information

Health Careers - tel: 0345 60 60 655. The website gives information on the whole range of careers in the NHS and you can download appropriate resources, including the booklet *A*

career for you in health, which gives an overview of the range of jobs available, minimum entry qualifications, skills needed etc:
www.healthcareers.nhs.uk

Step into the NHS is the NHS Careers website aimed at young people:
www.stepintothens.nhs.uk

NHS Wales Careers:
www.nhswalescareers.com

Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) - tel: 0300 500 6184.
www.hcpc-uk.org