

Health & Social Care



THIS SECTOR
EMPLOYS OVER
2 MILLION
PEOPLE

THE HEALTH
SECTOR IS
THE LARGEST
EMPLOYER IN THE
UK

OVER
1.5 MILLION
PEOPLE WORK FOR
THE NHS

Everybody gets sick at some point, it's just the way it goes. To help us get better, we have the very best in doctors, nurses, dentists and other medical staff. It could be a strong bout of man flu or a bump on the head from falling down the stairs; whatever it is, these guys have got you covered. If you want to be on the side that saves and improves lives, then you've chosen wisely!

You ask us...

WHAT'S THE HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE SECTOR ALL ABOUT?

If you couldn't have guessed by the name, it's about helping people who have fallen ill, hurt themselves or have problems at home. The medical side of this industry is vast; doctors, nurses, healthcare assistants, physiotherapists, dentists, psychiatrists and many more roles help keep this country in top working order. The Social Care side helps people with more domestic issues, like fostering children, working with people with learning disabilities and helping families deal with issues.

WHAT KIND OF SALARY CAN I EXPECT TO EARN?

The average starting salary in this sector is around **£13,000**, but will quickly increase as you become more experienced and qualified (this is especially the case with nurses). A fully qualified nurse will earn upwards of **£27,000** and doctors can earn anywhere between **£38,000** and **£63,000** depending on their speciality. Social workers usually start on **£19,000** but can easily be on **£35,000** when they become fully qualified and experienced.

WHAT KIND OF ENVIRONMENT WOULD I BE WORKING IN?

This sort of depends on which area of the health sector you go into. If you work in Social Care, you will be out and about helping people in your remit. Some areas of responsibility are rather large, so you might need to travel a fair bit. A more of a medical environment awaits those in the Health sector; healthcare assistants can work anywhere from A&E to maternity, whereas doctors and nurses might be based in local surgeries or in actual, surgical situations.

HOW DOES THIS SECTOR COMPARE TO OTHERS ACROSS THE COUNTRY?

As you can imagine, this is a huge sector in the UK. There are more than **1.52 million** healthcare workers and over **1.56 million** social care workers in this country, so it'll come as no surprise that the UK National Health Service (NHS) is the largest employer in all of Europe!

WHERE IS THE WORK MOST CONCENTRATED?

Well, every town or city has a hospital. If it didn't, people would get very stuck very quickly. Doctor's surgeries can be found in smaller towns and villages, with some surgeries covering more than one village if the area isn't particularly built up. Social Workers work closely with the local authorities helping people in that particular country, but you do also get private firms which cover larger areas of the UK.



Careers Choices

The Healthcare sector is huge; there are so many job roles that keep this industry ticking that we couldn't possibly list them all. We just couldn't. What we can do is show you the most popular areas that people go into and which job roles you might encounter when in that area.

ADULT SOCIAL CARE

Caring for adults is all about helping people who want to go out and live life, but for varying reasons couldn't do it by themselves. It's not about being a form of babysitter; it's about helping people live their lives with dignity and independence. Some people are full time carers for family members, or look after several people during the course of their week. Salaries vary depending on your role and, perhaps more poignantly, when in the week you work. Night shifts, bank holidays and weeks usually pay much more than regular working hours, but normal starting salaries are around **£13,000**.

ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONS

This covers some of the more specialised career paths within the health sector; radiographers, therapists, dieticians, psychologists and optometrists all come under this section. Your average starting salary is around **£17,000 – £21,000** and will

increase as you progress in your field.

CHILDCARE

Children require plenty of care; if left unattended they can draw on themselves, drink paint, catch fire and fall victim to any number of problems in the world. Childcare is all about making sure children are looked after in a safe, friendly and fun environment; the variables of this are dictated by the age of the children you are caring for and your day might involve planning activities, providing meals, monitoring playtimes and leading basic educational sessions. You can expect to start on around **£10,000**, but after experience you can earn more and push on for a managerial role, which can earn you upwards of **£22,000**.

DENTAL

Going to the dentist isn't everybody's favourite thing to do, but dental hygiene is very important to our overall health. The human mouth acts as a gateway to the rest of our

body, so if it's not working properly, then our body won't act properly either. The dental industry is a highly skilled trade to be in, so therefore you need to have good attention to detail and a good, reassuring nature (not to mention a steady hand!). Dental nurse salaries start out at around **£16,000**, where as fully qualified dentists can earn upwards of **£30,000** in their first year.

HEALTHCARE SCIENCE

Medicines, vaccines and other medical related chemicals are all created in a laboratory somewhere by our top healthcare scientists. This is less about surgery and patients and more about working in a lab with chemicals and data, which can be exciting if you enjoy chemistry. This also covers the pharmacists you get medicine from; they are responsible for choosing the right amounts of the right medicines that are prescribed by the doctors. Most starting salaries in this area are around **£21,000** and will increase with experience.

HEALTH INFORMATION

Researchers, analysts, IT professionals...the list of people required to store the vast amount of people is huge. These people are responsible for keeping a record of literally everything that goes on in the hospital, from prescriptions and surgeries to patient records and medical histories. A hospital without health information would be absolute chaos; this is for those who want to work in a medical environment but don't want to do anything science related. Your salary depends on your role, but it will usually start at around **£15,000**, but at the top end of the ladder you could expect to earn over double that.

NURSING & MIDWIFERY

Nurses assist doctors with complicated procedures, while also tending to the needs of the patients. In some situations, patients will be referred to nurses for simple surgical procedures or for blood sample collection. So it goes without saying that with all this patient interaction you'll need to be smiley and approachable so that people feel safe letting you poke and prod them. Midwives are responsible for patients who are about to have

(or have just had) babies. This involves both the patient's and the baby's well being, so if you love being around babies, this is definitely the career for you. Salaries usually start between **£15,000** and **£20,000**, but can rise to **£30,000** and beyond.

SOCIAL CARE

Social workers work closely with young people and families helping with various issues such as behaviour, parenting, education and fostering. They also work with people just released from prison, helping them integrate into society. You might be working in hospitals, prisons or anywhere in the local community. Salaries can range from **£19,000** to **£22,000** when you start out, but most qualified social workers are on **£32,000** and over.

WIDER HEALTHCARE

As with the Health Information team, the hospital wouldn't run without the various caterers, porters, maintenance men, gardeners and cleaners. Hospitals have to be kept clean to avoid infection spreading; many cleaning staff undertake courses to become sterilising specialists who clean down rooms and equipment. Salaries start out at around **£12,000** and will increase with experience and added responsibility.

Where to begin

APPRENTICESHIPS

If you are aged 16 and over you could enter an Apprenticeship, which would teach you the skills you need while you work and earn a salary. You'll spend half your time in the classroom and half out on the job. Listed below are the apprenticeship frameworks for this sector, which when completed will give you a Level 2 qualification in the form of a BTEC, Diploma or NVQ:

Health and Social Care • Health (Pharmacy Services) • Health (Informatics) • Health (Healthcare Support Services)

ADVANCED APPRENTICESHIPS

These are the equivalent to A-Levels and can usually be joined after completing the associated Intermediate Apprenticeship. They are

ideal for people who want a practical role as they learn while gaining valuable employment experience. People with Advanced Apprenticeships tend to progress up the ladder a lot quicker than those without, as the skills they learn are more suited to management and supervisory roles. Here are some of the Apprenticeship Frameworks for this sector and all of these will result in a Level 3 qualification such as a BTEC, a Diploma or an NVQ.

Health and Social Care • Health (Allied Health Profession Support) • Health (Clinical Healthcare Support) • Health (Dental Nursing) • Health (Healthcare Support Services) • Health (Maternity and Paediatric Support)

A-LEVELS

A-Levels are the most popular gateway into university and are sought after by employers. They will be useful to getting into this sector, especially science based qualifications. Here are the relevant A-Levels for this sector.

Physics • Biology • Chemistry • Health and Social Care • IT • English

FOUNDATION DEGREES

A Foundation Degree combines university lifestyle with practical, hands on work. It's sort of like a cross between an Apprenticeship and an Honours Degree. They are often used as gateway qualifications to a full time Degree as they count towards the first two years of an Honours Degree. They usually take two years to complete and you'll be both in the work place and on the university campus. There are a wide range of Foundation Degrees available for this sector, such as **Health and Social Care and Nursing**.

COLLEGE COURSES

A college course is another way to get into this sector. For more information, check out www.careersworld.co.uk

VOCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

Vocational qualifications, such as BTECS and NVQs, are a great way to get straight into the specific areas of this industry that wouldn't be covered by other qualifications.