



## Could you be a healthcare support worker?

Working as a healthcare support worker (HCSW) in the NHS will give you the chance to learn new skills and make a difference to the care patients get.

### What is a healthcare support worker?

We use the words healthcare support worker to describe lots of different jobs in the NHS. These jobs include healthcare assistant, nursing assistant, and more.

Whatever the job title, HCSWs are a really important part of how the NHS looks after people. There are many parts to the role and every day can be different. HCSWs often help patients with practical things, including washing and dressing, making beds, and serving meals. As a HCSW, you can also learn more technical skills if you want to, like how to take blood, or check a patient's blood pressure, temperature, or heart rate.

HCSWs work in lots of different NHS services such as mental health, maternity, learning disabilities, and children and young people's services. You can work in hospitals, GP practices, people's own homes, and the community.

### What experience do you need to become a healthcare support worker?

For most HCSW roles, you don't need to have worked in any healthcare jobs before. You will need good English and maths skills, but you will be given all the training you need to do the job.

You will need to be able to follow instructions, be kind and willing to work with the rest of the team to give patients good care.

### What about career progression?

Lots of people who start working for the NHS as a HCSW stay in the job for many years and some people stay working for the NHS all of their life. We will support you to develop in your role and if you want to, we will support you to progress into other roles. Some HCSWs go on to become nursing associates, registered nurses, and midwives.

### Find out more

If it sounds like a HCSW role could be right for you, you can find out more and apply for roles on the [Health Careers website](#) or scan the QR code below.

