

## Nursing Support Worker

As a nursing support worker you help nursing staff to look after patients in hospitals, nursing homes or in the community. You carry out basic care tasks, working as part of a team under the supervision of a qualified nurse or another qualified health worker.

### The Work

You could be:

- making beds, and helping move patients in their bed to be more comfortable
- serving meals and helping some patients with eating meals
- helping patients bathe, shower, wash or dress themselves
- changing incontinence pads, fetching and emptying bedpans, removing soiled linen, or assisting patients to the toilet
- keeping family members up to date with their patient's condition
- assisting patients to other parts of the hospital such as x-ray
- helping other members of staff deal with emergencies and coping when a patient dies
- taking note of any changes in the condition of the patients and reporting these to the professional staff
- carrying out clinical care tasks such as measuring blood pressure or taking urine samples.

### Pay

Under NHS Agenda for Change, nursing support workers start on Band 2, £26,658 to £28,947 a year. With promotion your salary would rise to Band 3, £29,061 to £31,364 a year. The current pay scales are from April 2025.

### Conditions

- You work in hospital wards, hospices, nursing or residential homes.
- You would work under the supervision of a registered nurse.
- You work shifts including nights, evenings and weekends.
- You wear a uniform and sometimes protective clothing.
- There is heavy lifting and moving involved.
- You have to deal with unpleasant sights and smells.

### Getting In

- A good general education is useful.
- You can enter through a Modern Apprenticeship in Healthcare Support (Clinical) at SCQF Level 6.
- You may need to sit an entrance test.
- Previous experience in a paid or voluntary role in a health care setting would be an advantage.
- It is useful to have done some first aid or have experience of working with people.
- You can use experience of caring at home to apply for jobs.

- You will require a satisfactory criminal record check from Disclosure Scotland to show that you are suitable for this type of work. Contact Disclosure Scotland for details on the type you would need.

## What Does It Take

You should be:

- able to deal with suffering, distress and sometimes death
- a good communicator
- patient and caring
- reassuring and able to explain hospital procedures clearly
- tactful – you must treat all patients with respect
- able to remain calm in emergencies and use your initiative
- able to work well in a team.

## Training

- Training is on the job. You would work towards Scottish Vocational Qualification (SVQ) Health Care Support (Clinical) at SCQF Level 6.
- You may be able to move on to SVQs at SCQF Level 7.
- You would follow an induction process which is reviewed yearly. Training includes hygiene and infection control, safe moving and handling techniques, communication skills and basic life support skills.

## Getting On

- With experience and particularly if you take qualifications, you may be able to move to a higher grade, such as a senior nursing support worker, or a more specific role such as theatre support worker.
- You could work for a private company as well as for the National Health Service (NHS).
- You might be able to study part time for the adult nursing degree at the Open University, which can lead to registration with the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC).

## Contacts

### NHS Scotland Careers

Website: [www.careers.nhs.scot](http://www.careers.nhs.scot)

Website (2): [jobs.scot.nhs.uk](http://jobs.scot.nhs.uk)

### Skills for Health

Tel: 0207 388 8800

Email: [contactus@skillsforhealth.org.uk](mailto:contactus@skillsforhealth.org.uk)

Website: [www.skillsforhealth.org.uk](http://www.skillsforhealth.org.uk)

X: @Skillsforhealth

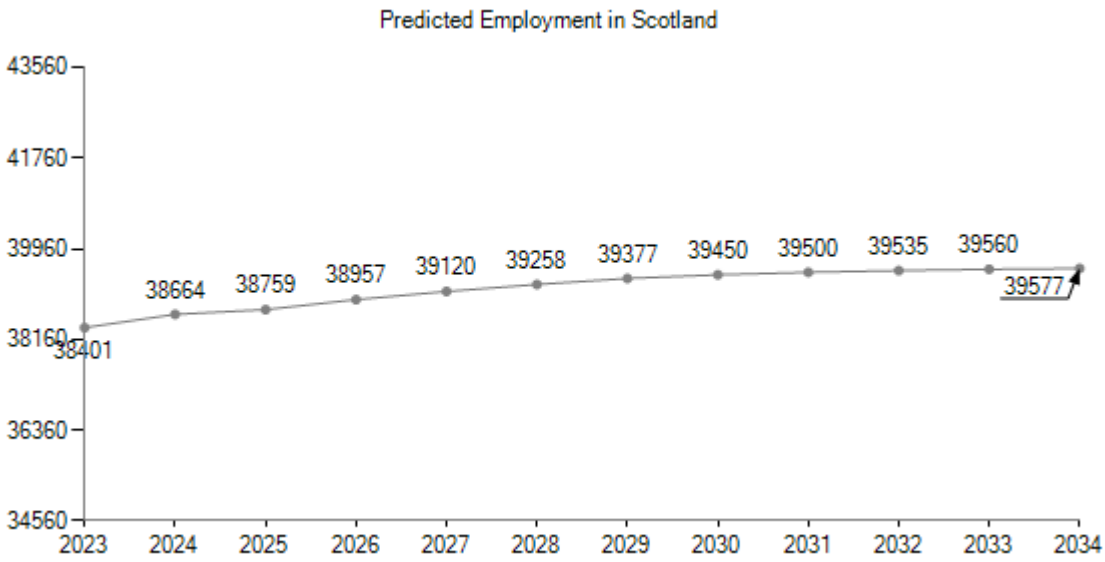
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/skillsforhealth1](http://www.facebook.com/skillsforhealth1)

**Statistics**

Employment Status : Not available this career.

**Past Unemployment - Scotland**

No Claimant statistics available for Scotland.



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