

Hospital Porter

Hospital porters carry out many important duties around a hospital, such as taking patients to different departments, or moving equipment around the hospital. They may belong to a particular department or they may be part of a 'pool' of porters for the whole hospital or nursing home.

The Work

You could be:

- going to different departments in response to your pager
- helping nurses lift a patient on to a trolley or into a wheelchair
- sorting and delivering incoming mail
- taking meals to wards or taking samples to labs
- taking linen and equipment to wards
- moving furniture or removing refuse, including clinical waste
- wheeling patients or equipment around the various parts of the hospital by way of lifts and long corridors
- transporting patients who have died from the ward to the mortuary
- driving a buggy from building to building around the hospital grounds.

Pay

As a porter with the NHS, you will be paid on the NHS Agenda for Change. The current pay scales are from April 2025. You would normally start on Band 2, £26,658 to £28,947 a year. You might earn more for working shifts or overtime.

If promoted to head porter or supervisor you would be on Band 3, £29,061 to £31,364 a year.

Conditions

- The work is mostly indoors in a hospital or nursing home, but you may clean and tidy outside areas at times.
- You may work in a particular department such as operating theatres or the x-ray department.
- You would work shifts including nights, weekends and public holidays.
- You would have to wear a uniform and sometimes protective clothing.
- There would be a lot of heavy lifting of patients and equipment.
- You would have to deal with unpleasant sights and smells.

Getting In

- You need a good general education.
- Voluntary experience in a hospital is helpful.
- You might get in through a Modern Apprenticeship in Facilities Management, or Healthcare Support (non-clinical).
- For some posts you need a driving licence.

- You should have a good level of physical fitness.
- 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 get on with a wide range of people of all ages
- polite, cheerful and friendly
- patient and tactful
- practical and responsible
- not squeamish
- able to remain calm in emergencies
- able to deal with suffering, distress and sometimes death.

You need to have:

- the ability to follow instructions
- the ability to keep accurate records
- teamworking skills.

Training

- You usually have an induction course including health and safety and lifting techniques.
- If you do a Modern Apprenticeship, you would work with an employer and study for an SVQ.
- You could complete an SVQ in Healthcare Support (Non-clinical) at SCQF Level 6 or 7, or Facilities Management at SCQF Level 7.
- Further training is on the job by an experienced porter.

Getting On

- With experience you may become supervisor of a team of porters, or head porter.
- You could work in a private hospital as well as the National Health Service (NHS).
- You could work for a private contractor providing services to hospitals.

Contacts

NHS Scotland Careers

Website: www.careers.nhs.scot

Website (2): jobs.scot.nhs.uk

Statistics

Employment Status : Not available this career.

Past Unemployment - Scotland

No Claimant statistics available for Scotland.

Predicted Employment Statistics : Not available this career.