

Physiotherapy Support Worker

Physiotherapy support workers help physiotherapists treat patients with physical problems caused by illness, injury, age or disability. Physiotherapists use movement, exercise and technology to help maximise patients' movements.

The Work

You could be:

- getting equipment ready for use in treatments and tidying up afterwards
- looking after patients when they arrive
- helping patients to dress and undress
- helping patients with their exercises
- monitoring patients during exercise programmes
- showing patients how to use mobility aids
- organising clinics, dealing with phone enquiries and carrying out clerical duties
- updating patient records, and marking their progress
- working with other health care professionals, such as occupational therapists and nurses.

You might specialise working in one area, for example working with children.

Pay

Pay rates can vary depending on whether you are working with the NHS, with a private practice, or are self-employed. Within the National Health Service Agenda for Change scales physiotherapy support workers are paid on Band 3, £29,061 to £31,364 a year.

Assistant practitioner physiotherapy support workers are on Band 4, £31,492 to £34,254 a year. The current pay scales are from April 2025.

Conditions

- You would usually work in treatment units or wards in hospitals.
- You could also work in a health centre.
- Hours are normally regular, but you may sometimes do weekend or evening work.
- You would usually wear a uniform.

Getting In

- A good general education is useful. National 4 English and Maths preferred.
- You should be fit, as you may need to help lift patients and move equipment.
- Previous experience in a paid or voluntary role in a health care setting would be an advantage.
- You might get in through a Modern Apprenticeship in Healthcare Support (Clinical) at SCQF Level 6.
- 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.

- The ability to swim is required for some posts.
- A driving licence might be useful.
- It is helpful to have some relevant experience. Volunteer Scotland offer some voluntary physiotherapy assistant opportunities.

Most physiotherapy assistants work for the National Health Service (NHS). You might also find work in sports centres. Demand for jobs often exceeds the number of vacancies.

What Does It Take

You should be:

- able to get on well with people from all backgrounds and of all ages
- a good communicator
- able to encourage and motivate patients
- patient, understanding and tactful
- interested in exercise
- able to work alone or as part of a team
- able to keep accurate records.

Training

- Training is usually on the job, supervised by an experienced physiotherapist.
- You would work towards SVQ Healthcare Support (Clinical) at SCQF Level 6.

Getting On

- With training, you may be able to move into a supervisory job.
- You might also be able to become an assistant practitioner (advanced physiotherapy assistant) if you complete SVQ Healthcare Support (Clinical) at SCQF Level 7.

Contacts

Chartered Society of Physiotherapy (CSP)

Tel: 020 7306 6666

Website: www.csp.org.uk

X: @thecsp

Facebook: www.facebook.com/charteredphysios

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.