

Theatre Support Worker

Theatre support workers support theatre staff before and during surgery. They transport patients between wards and the operating theatre and help keep patients calm while waiting to go in for surgery.

The Work

You could be:

- collecting patients from the ward and transporting them to the operating theatre
- talking to patients, reassuring them and keeping them calm
- counting and taking note of the surgical instruments to be used during an operation
- preparing the surgical equipment before an operation
- cleaning up after an operation, ensuring all equipment is accounted for and health and safety procedures are followed
- collecting and recording samples taken during surgery
- making sure clinical waste is disposed of properly
- maintaining stock levels of medical and surgical items.

Pay

Under NHS Agenda for Change, theatre 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 would work in a hospital operating department.
- You would work under the supervision of an operating department practitioner.
- You work shifts including evenings and weekends.
- You wear a uniform and protective clothing.
- You have to deal with unpleasant sights and smells.

Getting In

- A good general education is useful including English and Maths.
- You can enter through a Modern Apprenticeship in Healthcare Support (Clinical) at SCQF Level 6.
- You may need to sit an entrance test.
- 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 need to be:

- able to communicate with people of all ages and from different backgrounds
- able to remain calm in stressful situations
- supportive and encouraging
- patient and caring
- able to work as part of a team.

You should have:

- excellent attention to detail
- thorough knowledge of health and safety procedures
- understanding of patient confidentiality
- a genuine interest in healthcare.

Training

- Training is on the job. You would work towards Scottish Vocational Qualification (SVQ) Healthcare Support (Clinical) at SCQF Level 6.
- You may be able to move on to SVQs at SCQF Level 7.
- You will study the new Healthcare Support Workers (HCSW) Mandatory Induction Standards which are designed to protect the public. This includes Protecting patients and the public; Health, safety and security; Working with people; and Working and developing in your role.

Getting On

- With experience, and particularly if you take qualifications, you may be able to move to a higher grade, such as a senior theatre support worker.
- You could work for a private company as well as for the National Health Service (NHS).
- With experience and training you could gain the qualifications to work as an [Operating Department Practitioner](#).

Contacts

NHS Scotland Careers

Website: www.careers.nhs.scot

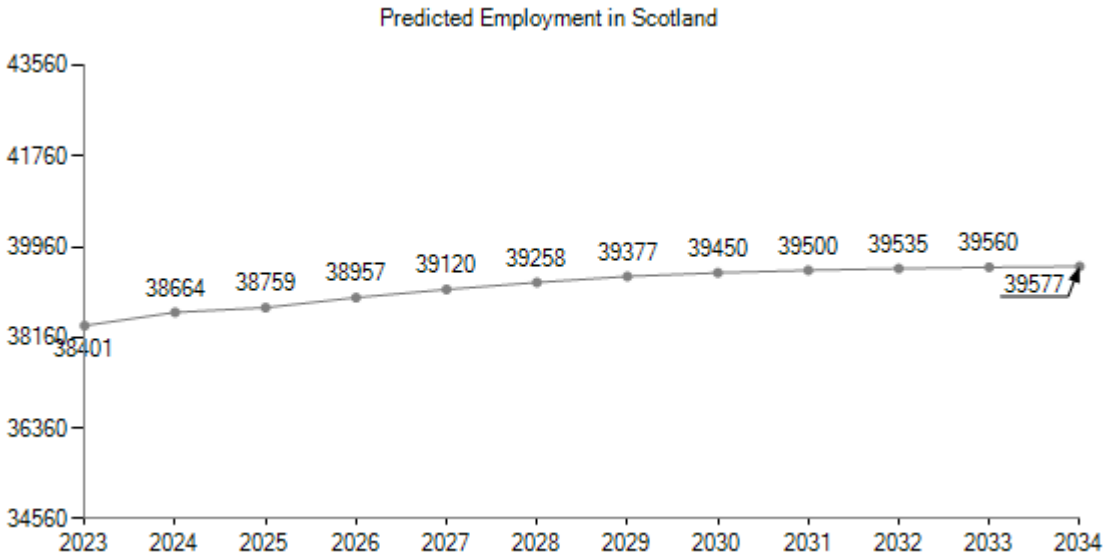
Website (2): jobs.scot.nhs.uk

Statistics

Employment Status : Not available this career.

Past Unemployment - Scotland

No Claimant statistics available for Scotland.



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