



# JOB of the Week



**Job name:** Paramedic

**Job description:** Paramedics provide immediate response to emergency calls that can be both traumatic and medical in origin and also respond to GP referrals and 111 calls. You'll usually be the first senior autonomous independent healthcare professional on the scene, and the level of care you provide can range from dealing with life threatening conditions to minor illnesses and injuries. You will need to undertake a full medical and health assessment to determine a patient's condition, provide essential treatment and transportation to a designated hospital or care facility.

**Tasks you will undertake in the job:** Your work will vary greatly depending on the patient and their condition, but in general you'll need to:

- listen to the patient and gain their consent (if possible) before undertaking any assessments and treatment
- provide medical assessments and any immediate course of treatment prior to transporting them to a designated hospital
- use technical equipment, including ventilators to assist breathing and defibrillators to treat heart failure, in order to resuscitate and stabilise
- carry out certain surgical procedures when necessary, such as cannulation to insert a cannula into a large vein and endotracheal intubation (insertion of a breathing tube into the trachea)
- monitor the patient's condition on an ongoing basis
- decide if admission to hospital is necessary and assess how to move patients and where the best location is for them
- liaise with members of other emergency services, such as the police, fire brigade or coast guard, and other ambulance services to ensure the appropriate level of response is provided
- work closely with doctors, midwives and nurses in hospital emergency departments, briefing them as their patient arrives at hospital
- liaise with allied health professionals such as radiographers, physiotherapists, occupational therapists and podiatrists to ensure a team approach to a patient's care journey
- deal with members of the public and negotiate with family members present at the scene
- clean, decontaminate and check vehicles and equipment to maintain a state of operational readiness
- assist other healthcare professionals with patient care in hospitals or health care centres
- provide clinical advice to patients and other colleagues over the telephone from a control room
- produce thorough case notes and report the patient's history, condition and treatment to relevant hospital staff
- maintain confidentiality of patients and act in a professional manner at all times
- support and supervise student paramedics and new staff.

**Skills required for this job (core competencies):**

Communication	Resilience	Organisation	Teamwork
Problem Solving	Initiative	Creativity	Digital literacy

**Sectors in which Paramedics would normally work:** Most paramedics work for the NHS and are recruited and employed in individual NHS trust ambulance services covering specific geographical areas. Ambulance services are usually committed to having at least one paramedic on each emergency ambulance. Job opportunities are therefore generally good, but the number of vacancies varies between regions across the UK.

There is a growing number of private companies providing ambulance services. They provide a range of services that can include: specialist patient transfer; non-emergency patient journeys; cover at sporting fixtures, major events or on film and TV sets; support for NHS trust ambulance services. Other employers include the armed forces and HM Prison Service.

## Career path and progression within the industry:

With experience and further training, there are opportunities to move into more senior paramedic roles with more responsibility. In these types of roles you'll have your own area of responsibility and will be able to make more decisions about treatment, enabling you to treat some patients at the scene of the emergency. As a senior paramedic it's possible to work as an emergency care practitioner (ECP), based in: community hospitals; GP surgeries; health centres; hospital accident and emergency departments; minor injuries units. It's also possible, with further training in critical care and trauma, to move into the senior role of critical care paramedic. Opportunities exist for specialist work with motorcycle, rapid response car or air ambulance (helicopter) units.



**Salary:** Salaries are covered by the NHS Agenda for Change pay scales. Paramedic salaries start at Band 5, which ranges from £24,907 to £30,615. You'll move up to Band 6 (£31,365 and £37,890) after following a newly qualified paramedic pathway.



**Working hours:** The emergency ambulance service operates 24 hours a day so you'll need to work shifts to cover this. You'll typically do 37.5 hours per week, which can be made up of evenings and nights, weekends and public holidays. You may be required for additional stand-by and on-call duties, especially in remote areas. Flexible working opportunities such as part-time work or job sharing may be available.

**Essential skills you need to show:** You'll need to have:

- excellent interpersonal skills for dealing with patients, their friends and family, and members of the public with strong teamwork skills to work alongside other crew and hospital staff
- the ability to work autonomously
- oral, written and listening communication skills for reporting conditions
- skills in problem solving and critical thinking
- the ability to remain calm and focused under pressure
- initiative and decision-making skills
- a calm and reassuring approach and a caring attitude and outgoing, helpful personality
- resilience in the face of strong emotions
- integrity and honesty
- a responsible and highly motivated approach to the work
- good general fitness to cope with lifting patients and equipment
- excellent driving skills - most NHS ambulance trusts will require you to be able to drive an ambulance under emergency conditions.

**This job in the future:** The workforce is projected to grow by 8.9%, creating 2 600 jobs; in the same period, 50.3% of the workforce is likely to retire, creating 16 000 job opportunities.

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[www.successatschool.org](http://www.successatschool.org)

[www.nationalcareers.service.gov.uk](http://www.nationalcareers.service.gov.uk)

[www.prospects.ac.uk/jobs-and-work-experience/job-sectors](http://www.prospects.ac.uk/jobs-and-work-experience/job-sectors)

[www.ucas.com/careers-advice](http://www.ucas.com/careers-advice)

[www.kudos/cascaid.co.uk/#/](http://www.kudos/cascaid.co.uk/#/) (you all have a log on for this service)

[www.careersbox.co.uk](http://www.careersbox.co.uk) (careers videos)

Helpful sites for careers information  
GAT careers links

<http://airhead.io/public/launchpads/XqbuOMJgb0OfqvMPCykZA>



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