



# JOB of the Week



**Job name:** Phlebotomist

**Job description:** As a phlebotomist, you will take blood samples from patients which are examined in a laboratory and the results can be used to quickly diagnose diseases and conditions.

**Tasks you will undertake in the job:** As a Phlebotomist:

When taking blood, you have to be careful that you:

- don't harm the patient
- don't disturb any nursing care that the patient is receiving
- take the blood correctly so it can be used for testing
- label the samples carefully
- store the blood correctly
- deliver the samples promptly to the lab

Patients may be nervous about having their blood taken, so you have to reassure them and put them at ease. Phlebotomists may work in hospitals, clinics or health centres. You may visit patients at home or in residential or care homes.

Depending on where you're based, you will work as part of a team with nurses, healthcare science staff working in blood sciences, biomedical scientists, GPs and other healthcare staff. You may work as a healthcare assistant, and then receive training in phlebotomy so that you can take patient's blood.



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

Communication	Resilience	Organisation	Teamwork
Problem Solving	Initiative	Creativity	Digital literacy

**Where Phlebotomists usually work:**

Phlebotomists may also be employed at blood banks. Sometimes a phlebotomist may be asked to travel to locations like nursing homes to collect blood specimens. If employed by a research lab or testing facility, the phlebotomist must be highly skilled in the strict guidelines that reduce the risk of contamination by infectious diseases. As seen by these examples, the job description and duties of a phlebotomist may vary according to their place of employment. What won't vary however, are the skills needs to perform this career. In all situations, the phlebotomist must be able to collect blood samples and prepare them for laboratory testing.

**Salary:** Phlebotomists are typically paid a starting wage of £18,546, this increases with experience; experienced Phlebotomists can expect to earn approximately £24,882 p.a.



**Working hours:** Working hours are usually around 37.5 hours per week. It is likely that you will need to work flexibly over seven days (shift work, evenings and weekends and if demand increases)

### Entry requirements for a Phlebotomist:

There are no set entry requirements to become a trainee phlebotomist. Employers usually ask for at least two GCSEs or equivalent. They may ask for a BTEC or equivalent vocational qualification in health and social care or healthcare.

Employers often ask for relevant work experience. Even where this is not specified, it would be an advantage if you have worked in health or social care, in either paid or voluntary work. There are apprenticeships in healthcare that would give you relevant experience to apply for a trainee phlebotomist position. You could work as a healthcare assistant, and then receive training in phlebotomy.

**Essential skills you need to show:** To succeed as a Phlebotomist, the following personal skills and attributes would give you an advantage:

- to be caring and kind
- willing to be hands-on with patients
- to be able to put patients at ease - they might feel anxious about giving blood
- able to follow instructions and procedures
- able to work in a team but use your own initiative
- able to explain procedures to patients, careful and methodical
  
- You'll also need:
- good communication skills
- including listening skills
- good organisational and observational skills

Look at

<https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/documents/350%20Careers%2C%20One%20NHS%2C%20Your%20Future%20accessible%20version.pdf> for more jobs in the NHS

[www.icould.com](http://www.icould.com)

[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)

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<http://airhead.io/public/launchpads/XqbuOMJgb0OfqvMPCykcZA>

