

# Healthcare Science Career of the Week



## Theatre Support Worker

Area of HCS: Wider Healthcare Team

Pay Scale: £15k - £23k

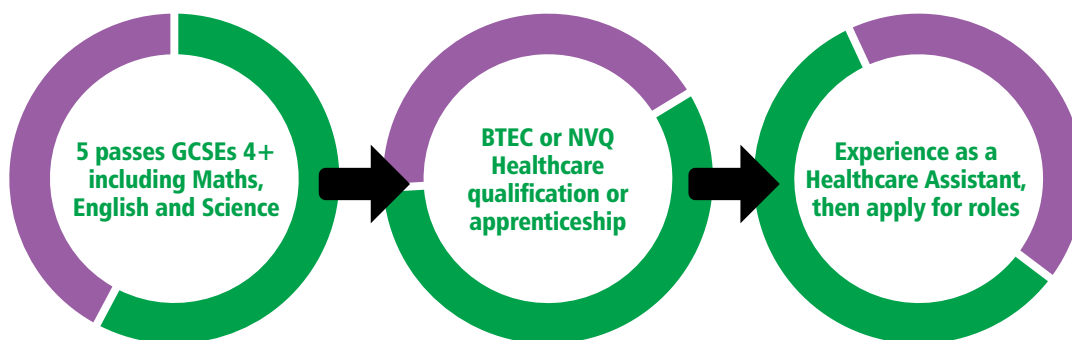
### AMAZING FACT

- Each year the NHS performs over 4.7 million surgical operations! That's 13 000 operations every day!! General surgery accounts for 1.3 million of these and trauma and orthopaedics (when you broke your left jumping on the trampoline) makes up another 1.2 million.

Theatre Support workers play a key role in the operating department team; reassuring patients and transporting them between wards and operating theatres. This career is a mix of part porter, part operating department practitioner and part theatre nurse. They also support the surgical team during and after the operation by documenting instruments, reassuring patients (the important of this can't be understated which is why it appears twice in this paragraph!), preparing surgical instruments pre-op, assisting collection of specimens and cleaning operating theatre before and after.

Many of the patients you will meet will be very unwell, it's your role to keep them as safe and as comfortable as possible. However prior to the procedure you will ensure the surgical team are aware of any problems or concerns you have related to the patient. Empathy is a huge part of this role, as is an ability to relate to people of any background. Hopefully you are a strong communicator with a caring and friendly personality, if you are you are PERFECT for this career.

### What to do to get into this career...



### Other roles to consider:

- Medical Engineering
- Operating Department Practitioner
- Theatre Nurse
- Decontamination Technician

### Future Career

- This is a GREAT role for future training, you have the opportunity to train as a theatre nurse or an operating department practitioner! And who knows where that will lead you to!

### Top Tip

- Look out for Perioperative Support Apprenticeships, not offered everywhere but this would be a fast track into this role.

### AMAZING FACT 2:

- Did you know you could have your elbow replaced?? In 2014/15 584 lucky people in England and Wales had their elbows replaced. Compare that with hip and knee replacements, more common operations, which were performed a total of over 200, 000 times!



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