

## Mental Health Nurse

### What is it?

Mental Health Nurses care for people experiencing mental health conditions such as anxiety, depression, schizophrenia, and eating disorders. They provide support, treatment, and advice to help patients manage their conditions and improve their quality of life. They work in hospitals, community settings, and sometimes in patients' homes.

### Qualifications/Experience Required:

**A degree in nursing (mental health)** approved by the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC).

Alternatively, you can train through a **Registered Nurse Degree Apprenticeship**.

Entry requirements usually include 5 GCSEs (grades 9–4) and 2–3 A levels, including a science subject.

You'll also need to register with the NMC after completing your training. Volunteering in healthcare or mental health support roles can help you gain experience.

### Type of person who may be suited to this job:

- Compassionate and empathetic.
- Good communication and listening skills.
- Able to stay calm under pressure.
- Strong problem-solving and decision-making abilities.
- Interested in mental health and helping others.

### What the Work Involves:

- Assessing patients' mental health and creating care plans.
- Administering medication and monitoring side effects.
- Providing emotional support and counselling.
- Working with families and other healthcare professionals.
- Responding to crises and safeguarding vulnerable individuals.

### Money/Wage Guide:

- **Starting Salary: £28,000**
- **Experienced Salary: £45,000+**

### Related Opportunities:

- **Psychiatric Nurse**
- **Counsellor**
- **Social Worker**
- **Psychologist**

### Future Prospects – Labour Market Information:

Mental health nursing is a high-demand profession in the UK. With experience, you could become a Community Psychiatric Nurse, Clinical Nurse Specialist, or move into management, education, or research.

**Typical weekly hours – 37.5 hours per week.**

*Often on a **shift basis**, including **nights, weekends, and bank holidays**.*

### Further Information:

<https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/job-profiles/mental-health-nurse>

<https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/nursing/mental-health-nurse>