Phlebotomist

What is it?

A Phlebotomist is a healthcare professional who is trained to draw blood from patients for medical testing, transfusions, donations, or research. They play a vital role in hospitals, GP surgeries, clinics, and blood donation centres.

Qualifications/Experience Required:

- No formal degree required, but a Level 2 or 3 Diploma in Phlebotomy is beneficial.
- On-the-job training is often provided by the NHS or private healthcare employers.
- Experience in a healthcare or customer service role is advantageous.
- Good knowledge of infection control and patient care procedures.

What the Work Involves:

- Taking blood samples from patients using venepuncture techniques.
- Ensuring patient comfort and explaining procedures.
- Correctly labelling and handling blood samples for testing.
- Following health and safety procedures to prevent infections.
- Working in hospitals, clinics, GP surgeries, and blood donation centres.

Future Prospects – Labour Market Information:

Phlebotomists are in **high demand** across the NHS and private healthcare settings. With experience, they can progress to senior phlebotomist roles, laboratory work, or train as a healthcare assistant, nurse, or biomedical scientist.

Average annual Salary - £22,000 - £30,000
Typical weekly hours – 37.5 hours per week, with shift work including evenings and weekends.

Type of person who may be suited to this job:

- Someone with a calm and reassuring nature to support anxious patients.
- A detail-oriented person with steady hands and good coordination.
- Someone who enjoys working with people and can follow strict procedures.

Money/Wage Guide:

- NHS Band 2 starting salary: Around **£22,000 per year.**
- With experience and additional training, salaries can increase.

Related Opportunities:

- Healthcare Assistant
- Nurse
- Biomedical Scientist
- Laboratory Technician

Further Information:

NHS Careers:
www.healthcareers.nhs.uk

National Association of Phlebotomists: www.phlebotomy.org

Institute of Biomedical Science: www.ibms.org