



# The NHS is NOT just ‘doctors and nurses’

**Doctors and nurses make-up a fraction** of the total NHS workforce of 1.5million healthcare and medical professionals, as well as the vital support staff.

Yet they are often referred to in news reports as if they are the only people who work in the NHS. Apparently, they do everything!

Does it really matter if someone is incorrectly ‘labelled’ as a doctor or a nurse in a news report? Or if in a drama they are shown to be doing a task that they would never do in real life?

**It does matter: it’s factually incorrect, and, professionally, it’s insulting to the healthcare professionals who have spent a minimum of three years to qualify for their unique role.**

For example, a doctor or a nurse can’t do what a radiographer does.

They aren’t qualified. They haven’t had the training.

Just to be clear...

There are two types of radiographers

**Diagnostic radiographers** diagnose illness and injuries by taking images of a patient’s body. They use x-rays, CT, MRI, radio-isotopes, or ultrasound.

**Therapeutic radiographers** treat and care for people with cancer.

They deliver precisely targeted radiotherapy, as well as planning and verifying treatment.

Both diagnostic and therapeutic radiographers work as part of clinical teams – that often include doctors and nurses.

**But every member of the team has their role and uses their unique skills and experience.**

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

[www.healthcareers.nhs.uk](http://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk)



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