Introduction to the role

If you are interested in going into a career in primary care, you can apply for a position of a general practice nurse role as soon as you become a qualified and registered nurse.

Below you will further information about the role, entry requirements and skills required.

Introduction to the role

Useful links to explore:

https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/nursing/roles-nursing/general-practice-nurse

https://qni.org.uk/nursing-in-the-community/work-of-community-nurses/general-practice-nurse/

Transition-to-General-Practice-Nursing.pdf (qni.org.uk)

- Ask your tutor about the opportunity of securing a placement in general practice whilst you are still training.

- Contact general practice surgeries to ask if you could be offered any work experience or shadowing. Remember: you cannot do this at the surgery you are registered at.

- Consider attending the **CNO 002 Discovering a Career in General Practice** course **click here for more information** - it will look great on your CV.

Skills for a GPN in Primary Care

Find out about the role and what skills and qualifications you will need

Entry Requirements

You must be a qualified and registered adult, child, mental health or learning disability nurse to work in general practice. You'll also either need to undertake further training and education or be willing to after being appointed.

You could take the first step of your general practice nurse career without going to university straightaway. You could enter as a healthcare assistant or assistant practitioner, if you have relevant experience and qualifications, and further develop your skills through additional education and training before starting your degree.

Another route option is Nursing associate. Nursing associates are members of the nursing team, who have gained a Nursing Associate Foundation Degree awarded by a Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) approved provider, typically involving two years of higher-level study, enabling them to perform more complex and significant tasks than a healthcare assistant but not the same scope as a registered nurse. Following this a further programme of study is available – to allow you to study to practice nurse level.

Skills you need:

- Good Communication Skills
- Good interpersonal skills
- Possess a professional manner
- Genuine interest in the delivery of health care
- Organised and diligent with attention to detail
- Maintain confidentiality, dignity and privacy
- Prioritise effectively
- Sense of responsibility

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Learn more

Being a **Nurse in** Primary Care

Find out about the role and what skills and qualifications you will need

What is a General Practice Nurse?

General practice nurses work in GP surgeries as part of the primary healthcare team, which might include doctors, pharmacists and dietitians. In larger practices, they may be one of several practice nurses sharing duties and responsibilities. In others, they may be working on their own, taking on many roles.

Training & Career Development

With further training and experience, practice nurses can apply for more senior roles, such as senior practice nurse/nurse practitioner and advanced nurse practitioner positions. These roles mean a lot more autonomy and you will be able to manage your own caseloads. You could also move into education, management, teaching or clinical research.

You could be involved in most aspects of patient care including:

- obtaining blood samples
- electrocardiograms (ECGs)
- minor and complex wound management including leg ulcers
- travel health advice and vaccinations
- child immunisations and advice
- family planning & women's health including cervical smears
- screening and helping patients to manage long term conditions
- men's health screening
- sexual health services
- smoking cessation

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