

Myths about General Practice Nursing

GPN's just look after patients with cuts and bruises. True or false?

False: Nurses treat patients for lots of things! They assess, treat and diagnose. They take blood checks, treat infections, bandage wounds, give smears to women, manage nursing teams and prescribe medicines

GPN's just help out the Doctors. True or False?

False: Nurses manage their own patients. They can refer to a Doctor where needed but do a lot of work by themselves.

GPN's work 9-5 weekdays. True or False?

Bit of both! Traditionally 9-5 but there is more scope to work weekends, nights and in different settings across e.g. in other GP surgeries or in hospitals

There is no career progression. True or false?

False: you can study to learn more skills and advance your knowledge, you can mentor students, you can manage a team of nurses– there is so much you can do!

See here for more info



Next steps

There's lots of information available to help you decide if a healthcare career is right for you

- Visit www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/nursing/general-practice-nurse for more information on being a general practice nurse
- General Practice Nurse film
- Visit https://heeoe.hee.nhs.uk/wps/cp_nursing_workforce to view our General Practice Nursing leaflet.



“No two days are the same. You are working independently as well as part of a surgery team and a multidisciplinary team (MDT). It is never boring. You are able to develop services that benefit the patients and shape health care for the future.”

Dawn Curran
Senior General Practice Nurse



General Practice Nursing– reach your potential working in a Doctor's surgery



Health
Careers



Every day is definitely not the same....

If you like working in a team and with a range of different people, being a General Practice Nurse (“GPN”) could be the job for you!

Did you know that General Practice Nurses:-

- Have a career structure which means you can start as a support worker (HCA) and progress onto be an Advanced Nurse Practitioner which is someone who provides specialised care to patients with a number of health conditions.
- You can become a mentor and support the development of your team or nursing students.
- Treat patients ranging from babies to older people which gives you lots of variety in your role

Getting in

If you decide on being part of the team then think carefully about the training route you’ll want to take and the area you would like to work in. Some work experience or volunteering may help you decide.

There are two options:

- **Work based learning**— Apprenticeships and beyond
- **University based learning**— undergraduate degrees

Apprenticeships

You can join a team as a Health Care Assistant and get on the job training from the practice or with an Apprenticeship, you can then carry on studying with a foundation degree. Some universities are now supporting ‘Flexible Pathways’ which means you can keep working and step up to study to become a registered nurse. Visit Anglia Ruskin Universities' website for an example- <http://www.anglia.ac.uk/>

Undergraduate degrees

Most commonly practice nurses follow an ‘Adult’ Nursing route. When you qualify and join a practice you can then train in the skills which are unique to general practice.



Get on

General Practice Nursing degree, fundamentals and preceptorship

Once you have qualified there are degrees and masters programmes which teach you the skills to work in general practice. There are also programmes where you can learn whilst you are working in a practice such as the fundamentals of practice Nursing course or preceptorship programmes which give you support during your first year in the role.