

General Practice Nursing Course 1 – Foundation

20 credits, level 6 or level 7

6 October 2026

Course structure - 8 study days

This unit is designed to equip students with the confidence and competence to fulfil the role of General Practice Nurse (GPN). To develop students critical understanding of the core leadership, management competencies and core professional skills of the General Practice Nurse (GPN).

The unit comprises two interwoven strands: a core skill-based component focusing on the acquisition of core fundamental, specialist skills cytology and immunisations for Practice Nursing alongside the specific professional and personal development essential for effective functioning in the unique and evolving world of General Practice.

The focus of the unit will be upon understanding and developing the knowledge base for the evolving role of the General Practice Nurse, current and future practice.

Clinical skills

- Cervical screening and cytology.
- Adult and Child Immunisations. Vaccinations in primary care
- Diabetes Healthcare Screening, assessment, care and treatment. Weight Management
- Population health screening and assessments
- Population health prevention and promotion
- National Screening programmes
- Focus upon living with complex and multiple conditions, person centred and humanised care

Professional skills

- Leadership and management as a GPN working in primary care
- Working in integrated primary and community healthcare teams and systems, integrated health and social care
- QoF and improving patient quality outcomes
- Professional and personal development as a GPN
- To provide safe and effective evidenced based practice in the primary care setting
- Person Centred, Safe, High Quality Primary HealthCare

A range of learning and teaching methods will be used, such as, lectures, seminars, specialist skills theme days, cytology and child/adult immunisations, blended learning, work-based learning supported by practice mentors. Technology enhanced learning and simulation.

Intended learning outcomes

Level 6

1. Explore and reflect upon the current and future role of the General Practice Nurse working in the evolving Primary Healthcare setting.
2. Analyse the evidence base for the core leadership competencies and professional clinical skills required to function as a GPN
3. To appraise the professional knowledge and skills base in health screening, promotion, prevention
4. To discuss the underpinning knowledge, evidence and skills base required in Cervical Screening and Child/Adult Immunisations core clinical skills to function as a GPN.

Level 7

1. To evaluate and critically reflect upon the current and future role of the General Practice Nurse working in the evolving Primary Healthcare setting.
2. To critically appraise the evidence base for the core leadership competencies and professional clinical skills required to function as a GPN
3. To critically approach the underpinning knowledge and evidence base required in Cervical Screening and Child/Adult Immunisations core clinical skills to function as a GPN
4. To critically discuss the underpinning professional knowledge and skills base in health screening, health promotion, health prevention.

Assessment

The completion of a 3,000-word written essay integrating evidence from students professional practice development portfolio demonstrating their professional and clinical skills learning journey whilst undertaking this course.

Target audience

Registered Nurses recently employed and who are new to working in Primary Care, GP surgery.

Associate Nurses employed and new to working in Primary Care, GP Surgery.

Students may study the courses at L6 or L7 and therefore will be required to demonstrate academic study skills at L6 prior to entry.

For those applicants wishing to undertake the General Practice Nursing we recommended that students complete Course 1, foundations to General Practice Nursing followed by completion of Course 2, Enhanced General Practice Nursing. Course 1 Foundation is the cornerstone for General Practice Nursing and students will achieve essential professional and technical skills in this specialist field of nursing practice. Once completed it is recommended students complete Course 2 Enhanced which will build upon these core, foundational skills and deepen General Practice Nursing knowledge and nursing experience in their specialist field of Practice Nursing.