

Development programme for general practice nurses

There are other areas that general practice nurses (GPNs) may want to develop, linked to general practice nursing, such as a professional lead post within a primary care trust (PCT) and working across practices, or lecturing in practice nursing at a higher education institution. GPNs applying for posts such as these would need to have evidence of good communication skills, education and teaching experience and, if moving into lecturing, they would require a minimum of a first degree and evidence of research or publications.

It would be wise to contact relevant professionals, such as another professional lead or a lecturer, to gain insight into their roles in order to prepare themselves for the transition. Below is a table that is split into different areas of potential career development linked to general practice nursing. The roles and areas given are only examples. The list could be exhaustive, and roles and titles may differ in different locations. The following examples should only be used as a guide.

Educational roles linked to general practice nursing	Managerial roles linked to general practice nursing	Extended roles linked to long-term conditions	Extended roles linked to first contact	Extended roles linked to public health
<p>Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mentor for pre-registration nurses in general practice • Mentor for specialist practice nurses (PNs) in general practice • Lecturer/practitioner in general practice nursing • PN education facilitator for the PCT 	<p>Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professional lead for general practice nursing within PCT • Team leader within a large practice for GPNs • Professional executive committee nurse • PN co-ordinator covering the whole PCT 	<p>Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specialist nurse in a long-term condition and providing nurse-led clinics in this area • Becoming a community matron 	<p>Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participating in out-of-hours care • Working as an advanced nurse practitioner (ANP) and setting up a service within the surgery seeing patients who want a same-day appointment for minor ailments 	<p>Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Running sexual health clinics • Running family planning clinics • Running travel health clinics • Running a joint service with the health visitor for adolescent health advice

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<p>Education/experience suggested:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mentor training courses • Specialist practice 'community practice teacher' course • Teaching qualification • Approach higher education institutes (HEIs) for sessional teaching to gain experience 	<p>Education/experience suggested:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leadership modules • People management courses • Modules in health economics and health policy • Shadowing of health service manager or someone in similar position within the PCT 	<p>Education/experience suggested:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accredited modules that prove competence in specific disease areas (eg chronic obstructive pulmonary disease module, diabetes module) • Nurse prescribing • Psychology awareness and training courses 	<p>Education/experience suggested:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ANP training/ Masters education • Nurse prescribing • Physical-assessment training • Triage training • IT training 	<p>Education/experience suggested:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training and education in relevant areas (eg family planning, sexual health, travel health) • Shadowing of other professionals running such clinics within the PCT to gain experience