

Healthcare Science Career of the Week



General Practice Nurse

Area of HCS: Primary Healthcare Team

Pay Scale: £21k - £35k

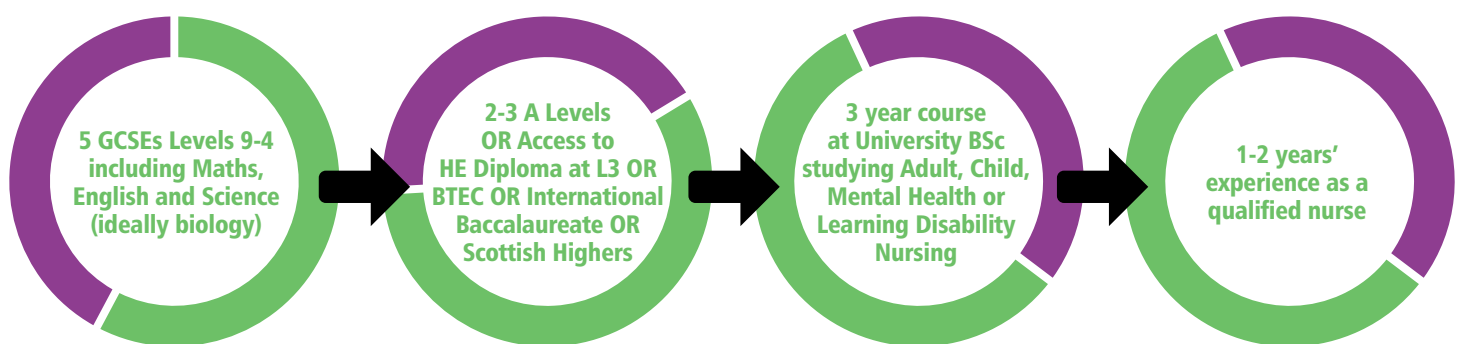
AMAZING FACT

- There are currently over 15,900 general practice nurses working in the UK. All those nurses would nearly fill Trent Bridge Cricket ground in Nottingham but they only make up 5.5% of the nursing staff employed by the NHS!!

As a General Practice (GP) Nurse you will be working in GP surgeries alongside doctors, pharmacists and dietitians. Pretty much everyone (including you and your friend sat next to you) will have met a GP nurse at some point in their life. Ever had a blood test? Holiday vaccination? Childhood immunisations? These services are all carried out by a GP nurse who are involved in nearly all aspects of patient care. You will also run some more specialised tests on patients such as an electrocardiogram (ECG) and provide information on family planning, sexual health services, smoking cessation plus much more.

The size of the practice you are part of will affect your role; the larger the GP practice and the more you will work in a team, if you are at a very small practice (i.e. Lerwick on the Shetland Isles) your role will be far more diverse and more will be expected of you. You may also be responsible for the supervision of any healthcare assistants who are part of the practice.

What to do to get into this career...



HAVE YOU CONSIDERED?

You might like to become a nurse practitioner in the future and be able to prescribe medicines for your patients, this is the perfect way to get into that role.



Other specialist nursing roles:

- Neonatal Nurse
- Occupational Health Nurse
- Prison Nurse
- Theatre Nurse
- District Nurse

Top Tip

- Some employers (i.e. GP surgeries) will ask for specific knowledge in certain areas such as health promotion or working with patients who have long term health conditions. You might need to undertake extra training, just check and make sure you are clued up!



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WATCH:

Find out more about what an electrocardiogram is by clicking this link <https://vimeo.com/162747146>