

Nurse - General Practice

Practice nurses work in clinics and health centres and alongside General Practitioners in doctors' surgeries, carrying out treatment on patients.

The Work

You could be:

- running regular clinics for groups of patients who have a chronic illness such as diabetes
- carrying out checks on and monitoring patients with conditions such as asthma
- recording a patient's weight, temperature and blood pressure, giving injections and medicines, syringing ears, washing eyes and taking blood samples
- cleaning and dressing wounds and removing stitches
- giving immunisations, to children and adults, by injection or orally
- carrying out men's and women's health screening
- discussing patients' progress with doctors, organising appointments, recalling patients for follow-up assessments, keeping records of patients' treatment and progress
- working with other health professionals such as dieticians and pharmacists.

Pay

NHS nurses are paid on the NHS Agenda for Change. The current pay scales are from April 2025.

Starting pay for a trainee practice nurse working in a team with a senior practice nurse would be Band 5, £34,494 to £42,977 a year. Experienced practice nurses will be on Band 6, £43,169 to £52,603 a year.

Practice nurses in private health care can earn up to £50,000 a year.

Conditions

- You work in a clinic, health centre or a doctors' surgery.
- You work around 37.5 hours a week.
- You may work regular hours Monday to Friday, but some health centres have evening or weekend clinics.
- You would normally wear a uniform.
- Part time work is common.

Getting In

- You must first qualify as a registered nurse (see [Nurse - Adult](#)).
- When you complete your training you must register with the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC).
- Once you have qualified as a registered nurse and within 12 months of starting your first practice nurse job, you can apply for the General Practice Nursing Education Pathway. This is a 14 month programme accredited by Queen Margaret University.
- You will require a satisfactory criminal record check from Disclosure Scotland to show that you are

suitable for this type of work. Contact Disclosure Scotland for details on the type you would need.

- Previous experience in a paid or voluntary role in a health care setting would be an advantage.
- You should have a good level of physical fitness. You will undergo health screening.

Most practice nurses and nurse practitioners work for the National Health Service (NHS). You can find NHS job vacancies in Scotland by visiting [NHS Scotland Jobs](#).

You could also work with a nursing agency or with a private general practice. Recent changes to the NHS, for example the reduction in GPs hours, are leading to an expansion of nursing practice and increased employment for nurse practitioners.

What Does It Take

You should be:

- able to get on well with people from a wide range of backgrounds
- very observant and able to act on your own initiative
- a good communicator
- able to assess what is best for the patient
- willing to take responsibility
- able to cope with distressing situations
- able to remain calm in stressful situations and support your patient.

Training

- You would train on the job working alongside an experienced practice nurse.
- Over 14 months you study while you work, which includes 10 mandatory days of taught study plus regular tutorials. You undergo supervision and complete a portfolio.
- As well as keeping your skills and knowledge up to date, you must renew your registration with the NMC every three years.

Getting On

- With experience you could become a nurse practitioner or manager, responsible for a team of nurses.
- To renew your NMC registration you must keep your skills and knowledge up to date, by undertaking at least 35 hours of relevant Continuing Professional Development (CPD) and 450 of practice hours every three years. Full details can be found on [NMC website](#).
- You could take further courses in a wide range of specialisms, such as orthopaedics, cancer or coronary care, which would lead to more responsible jobs in hospital.
- You could get involved in nurse training.
- Training in extra skills, for example, prescribing may be necessary for progress.

Contacts

NHS Scotland Careers

Website: www.careers.nhs.scot

Website (2): jobs.scot.nhs.uk

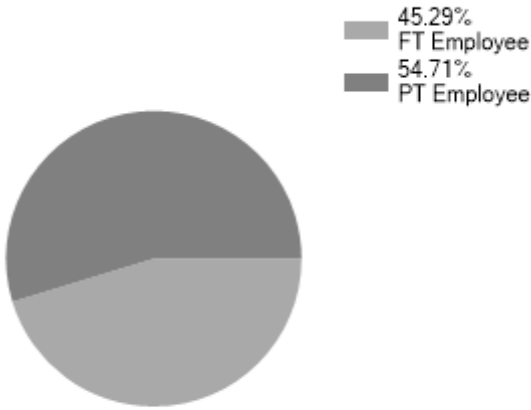
Royal College of Nursing Scotland

Website: www.rcn.org.uk/scotland

Facebook: www.facebook.com/royalcollegeofnursing

Statistics

Employment Status UK %

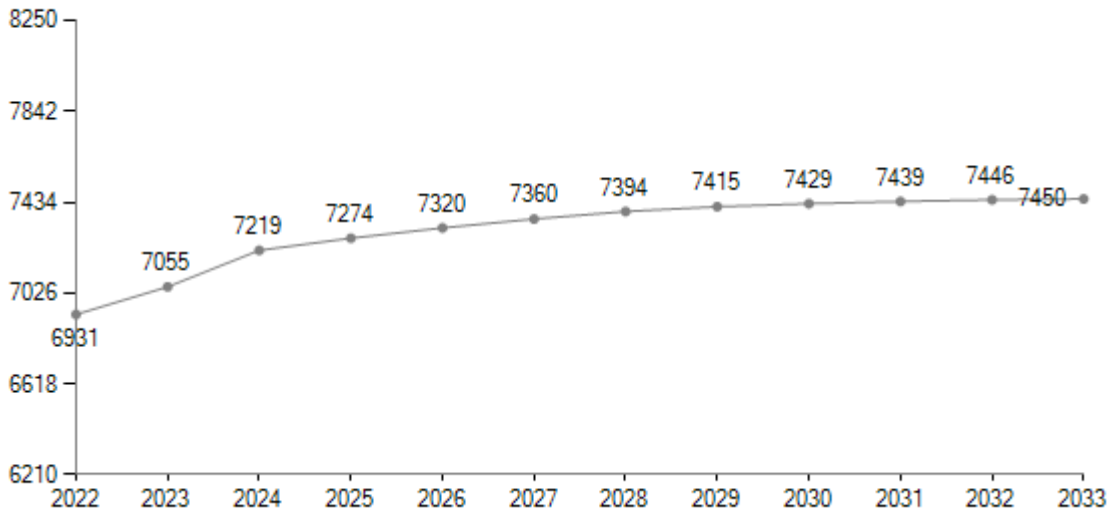


Past Unemployment - Scotland

No Claimant statistics available for Scotland.

LMI data powered by [LMI for All](#)

Predicted Employment in Scotland



LMI data powered by [Lightcast](#)