



General Practice Nursing
Developing confidence, capability and
capacity for delivery of technology
enabled care and prevention of
avoidable illness

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The QNI/QNIS voluntary standards for general practice nursing education and practice

The Queen's Nursing Institute (QNI) and Queen's Nursing Institute Scotland (QNIS) worked together with leading experts from across the UK to develop a set of voluntary standards to support Senior General Practice Nurse (GPN) education and practice. The standards are focused on the level 6 role and make explicit the practice expectations of Senior General Practice Nurses, to enable them to map themselves against the Standards if they have previously completed accredited programmes of study. The Standards will also guide education providers who wish to develop courses to support the development of Senior GPNs. The term 'voluntary standards' differentiates them from regulatory or mandatory standards, such as those set by the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC)

There are distinct roles of the Advanced Nurse Practitioner (APN) and the Senior GPN. APNs are at level 7 of the career framework. They are expert generalists using advanced skills across a greater breadth of practice and see patients with undifferentiated conditions. They will diagnose and prescribe across the full formulary. Senior GPNs will have some advanced skills, and will be leaders in a general practice team, but will predominately see patients who have an established diagnosis.

As primary care develops, the Senior GPN role will need to adapt to a range of models of care provision. The Senior GPN has a vital public health role that must address primary, secondary and tertiary prevention and be able to support people to make health choices which maximise self-care and promote independence. Future wellness models are likely to reflect an assets-based approach that emphasises supporting people to maximise their health and wellbeing at home. The Senior GPN needs a range of skills to be able to process and analyse data, monitor quality, and ensure that the nursing contribution meets or exceeds requirements.

Four key domains reflect the breadth of competence required for safe, high quality, person centred care:

Domain 1: Clinical Care

- Demonstrate partnership approaches when undertaking consultations, fostering a culture of patient-centred practice, promoting the concept of self-care and patient-led care where possible and providing appropriate health promotion, education and support.
- Facilitate behaviour change interventions for patients using extended brief interventions where appropriate and support the team to incorporate and evaluate behaviour change interventions in their consultation, including social prescribing.
- Engage and use digital technologies to support patient self-care and the efficiency and effectiveness of the General Practice Nursing team.

Domain 2 – Leadership and management

- Manage the general practice nursing team within regulatory, professional, legal, ethical and

policy frameworks.

- Analyse the clinical caseload for the GPN team, a safe and effective distribution of the workload.
- Build on community assets locally to enhance health and wellbeing.
- Respond flexibly to changing care strategies, identifying patients with long term conditions and complex needs, and providing appropriate evidence-based care.

Domain 3 – Facilitation of learning

- Complete an NMC approved mentorship programme and create positive teaching and learning environments for students and professionals.
- Develop systems to assess the learning and development needs of nurses within the practice, and support nurses with revalidation, or who are taking developmental courses.

Domain 4 – Evidence, Research and Development

- Support staff to ensure that all care is evidence informed and based on best practice.
- Contribute to the development, collation, monitoring and evaluation of data relating to service provision and development, quality assurance and improvement.
- Ensure governance systems are in place for GPN staff that ensures patient follow-up, referrals, correspondence and safety alerts are actioned.

The QNI/QNIS voluntary standards for general practice nursing education and practice 2017, The Queen's Nursing Institute London and The Queen's Nursing Institute Scotland, Edinburgh

<https://www.qni.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/GPN-Voluntary-Standards-for-Web.pdf>