

**Supporting the future General Practice workforce**

**Return to Practice for General Practice Nursing Project**

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| ***Summary*** |
| * ***We have a Return to Practice course at the University of Central Lancashire Preston, could you support a Return to Practice GPN?***
* ***Each General Practice receives £500 per returnee student placed with their practice.***

* ***Each student is funded for the Return to Practice NMC accredited course and an additional course (Fundamentals in General Practice 1) specifically focussing on the GPN role.***
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**Improving access to Return to Practice programmes** is implemented with the [***General Practice Nursing - 10 Point Plan***](https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/general-practice-nursing-ten-point-plan-v17.pdf) and Health Education England are recruiting experienced nurses who have left nursing and allowed their registration to lapse. These nurses want to re-join the nursing workforce and develop a career as a General Practice Nurse.

Providing experienced nurses with an opportunity to return to nursing within General Practice is the purpose of this project. To deliver this there is a need to secure quality placements in practices and to have trained sign-off mentors to supervise these returners.

Being equipped to develop your own workforce is an important element of securing the sustainability of general practice. Supporting these experienced nurses who have been out of practice, but who have gained additional life skills and now wish to return to nursing within general practice, is a means of securing that sustainability.

Once the Return to Practice students have completed their course and attained their NMC re-registration, we hope they will be able to find GPN posts to apply for and begin to fill many of the General Practice Nurse vacancies currently available across Lancashire.

**We need your help! We need more clinical placements in General Practice.**

We need more General Practices to agree to support our RTP GPN returnees to come back to nursing in a GPN role by supporting them through their clinical placement.

These individuals are experienced individuals who even though they may not have ‘nursed’ for a number of years have usually followed a caring or customer facing career pathway during their time out of nursing.

They have life skills and experience in abundance to offer and are dedicated and committed individuals who have made an important decision to return to nursing and begin their journey along the General Practice Nurse Career pathway. They are supernumerary and quickly get back into the mentality of a registered nurse during their placement.

We need General Practices who have General Practice Nurses who are currently Mentors or Sign off Mentors to contact us.

The Lancashire and South Cumbria Training Hub have been supporting the project to identify potential clinical placements and they will support any GPNs who would like to undergo training for either becoming a Mentor/ Sign-off Mentor.

Please get in touch with us at the Lancashire and South Cumbria Training Hub, if you are interested.

**We would like to fill your General Practice Nurse vacancies**

We also need General Practices and their Practice Managers to be aware of Return to Practice for General Practice Nursing so they will be ready for the successful returnee’s applications for GPN Posts in their GP Practices.

We would like to reassure your Practice Managers that the Return to practice students are experienced individuals who are looking for a General Practice Nurse role, this is a great opportunity to develop and educate an enthusiastic and dedicated individual, improving their skills and knowledge in all aspects of GP Nursing.

All the students have to complete the NMC accredited Return to Practice course in order to re-register their PIN Numbers. This course includes:

* Basic life support
* Moving and handling
* Infection control
* Administration of medicines
* Safeguarding
* Mental health
* Public health agenda
* Palliative care
* Quality care / governance
* Leadership

After successful completion of the NMC accredited Return to Practice course, a further funded course specific to General Practice Nursing is offered (Fundamentals in General Practice 1) which includes:

* Introduction to the role of a General Practice Nurse / NHS legislation
* Working in the general practice– infection control, health and safety, policies and procedures, clinical governance / communication
* Competencies / Standards of GPN
* Treatment room procedures
* Common Minor complaints
* Consulting with patients
* Dealing with emergencies
* Diagnostic and Screening tests
* Ear Care
* Managing Long Term Conditions, the role of the GPN in providing holistic care
* Professional, legal and ethical issues in general practice including CPD

The student returnee is required to complete a minimum of a 100 hours in general practice and be signed off as competent to re-register with the Nursing and Midwifery Council. Within practice the student returnee nurse will be able to undertake the role similar to a 3rd year pre-registration student including:

* Health screening
* Reviewing patient’s with long term conditions
* Wound care
* Injections
* Giving health advice and information about health conditions
* Taking patient samples, swabs and specimens
* Observations on patient’s

Additionally, a preceptorship programme is available to support nurses who are successful in obtaining a post in general practice. More information about the preceptorship programme is available from the Lancashire and South Cumbria Training Hub.

Three cohorts have successfully completed the training and are now working in general practices throughout Lancashire.

**So can you help us?**

If you think you can

* Offer support and mentorship to a Return to Practice in GP Nursing student.
* Have a vacancy that one of our successful students could apply for?
* Are interested in finding out more information on the project?

**Please contact your local Training Hub Lead:**

Fylde Coast Locality Training Hub: Dianne Eaton and Donna Swallow

Morecambe Bay Locality Training Hub: Lauren Butler

Pennine Lancashire Locality Training Hub: Ann Neville and Pauline Aspinall

Greater Preston, Chorley South Ribble Locality Training Hub: Louise Fowler and Brenda Vernon

West Lancashire Locality Training Hub: Gillian Gregory and Leoni Williams

**I am looking forward to hearing from you.**