



General Information about Practice Nursing in Ireland

Note: This leaflet is for information purposes only.

July 2011

THE PRACTICE NURSE

Practice Nurses are RGNs who are privately employed by GPs to provide holistic nursing care to the entire population of a general practice, i.e. from newborns to the elderly; both GMS and private patients. There are currently 1,700 Practice Nurses in Ireland who are carrying out immunisations, screening, health promotion, phlebotomy, weight management, smoking cessation, women's health, men's health, antenatal & postnatal care, wound management, travel vaccinations, cryotherapy, counselling, stress management, ear care, methadone maintenance; management of chronic conditions such as asthma, COPD, diabetes, cardiovascular disease, excema; as well as clinical audits, practice protocols, CPR training, etc.

211 Practice Nurses are accredited as Clinical Nurse Specialists (CNS), 2 have been accredited as Advanced Nurse Practitioners (ANP) in Primary Care, 9 have begun nurse prescribing programmes and 6 are now Registered Nurse Prescribers.

The positive impact of practice nursing on patient care is regularly noted and has been shown in audits and research (see Research page of IPNA website).

With the Department of Health & Children's continuing emphasis and strategic plans to move many services out of hospitals and into community settings, Practice Nurses are now being presented with an increasing variety of conditions and patient needs. Continuing Nurse Education enables Practice Nurses to provide evidence-based quality care and is essential before undertaking extended nursing roles.

QUALIFICATIONS NEEDED

Minimum Requirements:

A Practice Nurse must be a Registered General Nurse, i.e. on the Live Active RGN or PHN Register of An Bord Altranais.

Additional Qualifications:

The range of nursing care and extended roles which may be provided by a Practice Nurse is extensive. Each Practice Nurse, like all other nurses, must practise within his/her own Scope of Practice, (see "Scope of Nursing and Midwifery Practice Framework, 2000", available from An Bord Altranais and also "*Toolkit to Support Nurse and Midwife Clinical Competency Determination and Competency Development Planning*", available from the National Council for the Professional Development of Nursing & Midwifery) and "must take measures to develop and maintain the competence necessary for professional practice" (Code of Conduct, available from An Bord Altranais). Therefore, Practice Nurses have a responsibility to ensure that they are suitably qualified and competent to undertake all aspects of their role. The autonomous nature of practice nursing means that issues pertaining to the Scope of Practice require constant reflection and vigilance on the part of the individual nurse.

Any Practice Nurse who provides antenatal care must be a Registered Midwife, i.e. on the current Midwives Register of An Bord Altranais. There is also a requirement for a Practice Nurse who is a midwife to notify their local HSE office of their intention to practice midwifery in the community. For further information, please refer to the An Bord Altranais document "Practice Standards for Midwives", 2010.

SOME FACTS & FIGURES ABOUT PRACTICE NURSING IN IRELAND

- 51% of IPNA members are dual qualified, i.e. registered on 1 or more An Bord Altranais divisions in addition to the RGN division¹.
- 88% of IPNA members have undertaken post-registration education or skills updates (ranging from certificates to PhDs) in clinical areas that are relevant to Practice Nursing¹.
- There are currently 1,700 Practice Nurses working in the Republic of Ireland².
- 211 Practice Nurses are accredited as Clinical Nurse Specialists (CNS) in Primary Care³.
- 2 Practice Nurses are accredited as Advanced Nurse Practitioners (ANP) in Primary Care³.
- 6 Practice Nurses are now Registered Nurse Prescribers⁶.
- Practice Nurses carried out 47% of cervical smears in the year to August 2009⁵

References

1 Membership Database of the Irish Practice Nurses Association 2008-2010.

2 Professional Development Coordinators for Practice Nursing Group, 2011.

3 National Council for the Professional Development of Nursing & Midwifery, 2009

4 Health Services Executive.

5 "Evaluation of the use of resources in the national population-based cancer screening programme and associated services", HIQA, 2010 (page 67)

6 An Bord Altranais.

A PRACTICE NURSE'S ROLE MAY INCLUDE:

<p>Immunisations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infant vaccinations, (DPT, Hib, Polio, Meningitis C, MMR). • Childhood vaccinations, (MMR, Meningitis C, pre-school booster vaccines for children attending private schools). • Travel vaccinations, (Tetanus, Polio, Typhoid, Hepatitis A, Yellow Fever). • Hepatitis B, Tetanus boosters. • Flu and Pneumococcal vaccines. 	<p>Women's health / Antenatal care.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cervical screening. • Advice on various methods of contraception and H.R.T. • Pre-conceptual advice. • Pregnancy testing, antenatal care, postnatal care, breastfeeding advice. • Antenatal classes.
<p>Men's Health</p>	<p>Methadone Maintenance</p>
<p>Counselling</p>	
<p>Cardiology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cholesterol testing & dietary advice • ECGs. • 24 hour blood pressure monitoring. • Monitoring patients on anti-coagulant therapy. • Smoking cessation. • Stress management. • Heartwatch Programme 	<p>Skin/wound care / Minor surgery.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treatment of venous leg ulcers and other skin injuries. • Suturing of skin lacerations. • Post-operative suture removal. • Treatment of warts and verrucae / cryotherapy. • Nursing management of skin conditions - eczema, psoriasis.
<p>Diabetes care.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nursing management of Diabetes. 	<p>Respiratory care.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nursing management of Asthma and COPD. • Smoking cessation, lung function testing.
<p>General nursing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health Promotion and Education. • Telephone triage and advice. • General phlebotomy. • Ear Care. • Administering long-term medications/injections, (e.g. Cytamen, Depoprovera, Depixel, Myocrisin). 	<p>Indirect nursing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liaising with other health professionals in the community/hospital. • Drafting practice protocols. • Auditing patient care and practice services. • Maintenance and sterilisation of surgical instruments. • Maintenance of emergency equipment. • Education of practice staff (e.g. CPR, First Aid).

The Irish Practice Nurses Association, (I.P.N.A.)

The Irish Practice Nurses Association (IPNA) is a professional membership association of Practice Nurses and was granted Charitable Tax Exemption (CHY 17932) in June 2008. The main objective of the association ***“is the advancement of education in general practice in Ireland by promoting and assisting nurses in further education programmes and to provide a forum for the dissemination of information on developments in the general Practice Nursing field which will promote the highest standards of care to benefit the community.”***

From its' humble beginnings in the early 1990's as a small group of Practice Nurses who decided to meet regularly to share ideas and information, it has expanded steadily and now boasts over 700 Practice Nurse members nationwide, with 19 Branches holding monthly educational meetings.

Aside from the very much appreciated help from the National Council in hosting our first website, the IPNA has never received any grants or funding from the Department of Health. The growth and successful development of the IPNA can be solely attributed to the hard work of many dedicated Practice Nurses who have given so generously of their own time over the years. The IPNA is also immensely grateful to the many generous sponsors of our branch meetings, Annual Conference and some of our educational awards.



The IPNA logo was designed in 1990 by Kate MacCormack (daughter of Netta Williams - one of the IPNA's founding members) when she was a 1st year student in the National College of Art & Design. The four people represent a family and the hand behind them represents the Practice Nurse supporting the family. The hand also symbolises the "hands-on" clinical nursing care provided by Practice Nurses.

Branches of the Irish Practice Nurses Association

Cavan / Monaghan
Clare
Cork
Donegal
Galway
Kerry
Kildare / Carlow
Kilkenny
Limerick / North Tipperary
Louth / Meath
Mayo
Midlands
North Dublin
Roscommon
Sligo / Leitrim
South Tipperary
Waterford
Wexford
Wicklow



Irish Practice Nurses Association
CHY 17932
www.irishpracticenurses.ie



BENEFITS OF IPNA MEMBERSHIP



Invitation to each **monthly educational meeting** of your local branch, which will include a speaker who has been carefully chosen by the branch committee to talk about a subject that is relevant to Practice Nursing in your area and update you on the latest guidelines / best practice.



Invitation to the **annual IPNA Educational Conference/AGM**. All aspects of the conference - theme, speakers, clinical workshops, poster displays, research presentations, awards, exhibitors - are specifically relevant to Practice Nurses.



Free **IPNA Resource Pack and Personal Portfolio** – to assist you with maintaining records of your Continuing Professional Development.



Free delivery of “**Nursing in General Practice**”, the official Journal of the Irish Practice Nurses Association which includes clinical articles, research abstracts and relevant news.



The opportunity to enter the various **IPNA Educational Awards**, including the “Practice Nurse of the Year” award, “IPNA Educational Bursary”, “IPNA Clinical Award”, “Valerie Mangan IPNA Loyalty Award”, and “IPNA Branch Poster” award.



Exclusive access to the members' area of the **IPNA Website** (www.irishpracticenurses.ie), which has news about relevant events & study days, education, publications, research, grants & awards, speakers' presentations from IPNA Conferences, Discussion Boards, updated pages for your Professional Development Portfolio, and other relevant documents.



The option to receive **e-mail and/or text messages** about relevant issues, education, study days, etc. The option to receive **information by post** from sources other than IPNA regarding relevant study days, courses & products. The opportunity to avail of special offers on uniforms, educational books, etc when these are available.



Some **practical assistance** is available to members who need to source mailing lists for the purposes of carrying out research that is relevant to Practice Nursing.



Invaluable contact with other Practice Nurses in your area. The **chance to network, share information, learn from more experienced Practice Nurses and the general peer support provided by colleagues** is often cited by members as one of the most beneficial aspects of IPNA membership.

WHAT OTHERS SAY ABOUT THE IPNA

"We recognise the enormous contribution that the IPNA makes in promoting education and professional development for Practice Nurses. This contribution has supported Practice Nurses to have access to a wide range of educational opportunities."

Kathleen Mac Lellan, Head of Professional Development, National Council for the Professional Development of Nursing & Midwifery.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM EXISTING IPNA MEMBERS

"After 15yrs membership I am still attending meetings and learning all the time. Peer support and excellent clinical up-dates helped me to establish and maintain my role. Any isolation in practice that I felt initially was soon alleviated by shared experiences, depth of knowledge and generosity of spirit that was shown by all members. IPNA membership continues to be a positive and enriching experience for me." IPNA member (North East)

"As practice nurses, we often work alone amongst a team of other professionals. It is great to have the support of an organisation that is always there for advice and help. The Cork branch has been amazing and really enhances my enjoyment of the job. The journal is useful, the meetings are also useful and the clinical days the Cork branch has organised have been fantastic."

IPNA Member (Cork)

"I have found the text alerts re education ... invaluable. I would never hear about these things without being a member of the IPNA. Meetings are a nice opportunity to meet other nurses and to compare the different roles we play within various practices because as we know every place of work is different!!!" IPNA member (Cork)

"I joined the IPNA Louth Meath group 3 years ago when I was new to practice nursing. The support I received from networking with other practice nurses was invaluable. I have remained an active member since and look forward to our meetings which are always interesting, educational and benefit me greatly. The regular emails keep me updated to new changes in practice and new courses available to attend. I would feel very isolated as a practice nurse without the IPNA." IPNA member (Louth/Meath)

"The IPNA is a terrific resource for new practice nurses and for those not so new. It assists me in my professional development through regular educational meetings and the email alerts keep me up to date with what's going on. The association is invaluable in terms of peer support and friendship as many PNs work in isolation" IPNA member (North East)

Those who are on the Active RGN register of An Bord Altranais and who are currently working as Practice Nurses in the Republic of Ireland are eligible to become members of the Irish Practice Nurses Association.

To join, contact Tracey Rooney (IPNA Membership Secretary) at 086-2634917, e-mail: membership@irishpracticenurses.ie or visit www.irishpracticenurses.ie to download an application form.



Irish Practice Nurses Association
CHY 17932
www.irishpracticenurses.ie

Eligibility for Membership

Full Membership of the Irish Practice Nurses Association is open to persons who are on the Live Register of An Bord Altranais, in the RGN or PHN Divisions, and who are currently employed in the Republic of Ireland as Practice Nurses either on a full-time, part-time or job-sharing basis, working alongside a GP and providing GP services in any of the following settings:

General Practice

Out of Hours GP Services – Triage

Out of Hours GP Services - Clinical

3rd level institutions

Schools

Prisons

Family Planning Centres

Occupational Health Centres

Health Screening Centres

Health Information Centres – with direct patient contact

How to join:

Membership Forms can be downloaded from the Membership page of the IPNA website www.irishpracticenurses.ie or you can contact Tracey Rooney, IPNA Membership Secretary at e-mail: membership@irishpracticenurses.ie or mobile: 086-2634917.

Completed Membership Forms should be posted, along with a cheque/postal order/bank draft for €75 made out to "Irish Practice Nurses Association" and a copy of your current An Bord Altranais Certificate, to:

**Tracey Rooney, IPNA Membership Secretary, Dundrockan, Donaghmoynne,
Carrickmacross, Co Monaghan.**

RELEVANT EDUCATION / STUDY DAYS

Members of the IPNA can sign up to receive e-mail alerts with information on upcoming courses/study days. IPNA members can also access the **Events page of the IPNA website** for this information.

The following is a list of just some of the many courses that may be of interest to Practice Nurses...

IFPA Family Planning Course for Nurses – see www.ifpa.ie or tel: 01-607 4456.

Smertaker Training – see www.cervicalcheck.ie or tel: (061) 406565/564.

**Post Graduate Diploma in Nursing
MSc Nursing (Specialist Practice)
MSc Women's Health
Certificate in Nursing (Nurse/Midwife Prescribing)**
See www.rcsi.ie or tel: 01-402 2100

**Post Graduate Diploma in Nursing (Practice Nursing/Community Nursing)
Post Graduate Diploma in Primary Care
Post Graduate Diploma in Clinical Primary Care**
See www.nuig.ie or tel:

Management of the Individual with Chronic Illness – Programmes for Nurses
See www.dcu.ie or tel: 01-700 8524.

**Professional Programmes in Nurse/Midwifery Prescribing of Medication
Clinical Leadership in Primary Care**
See www.ucd.ie or tel: 01-716 7777.

Certificate in Nurse/Midwife Prescribing
See www.ucc.ie or tel: 021-4902 159.

Scope of Practice Workshops/Updates for practice nurses - these are regularly available through the Professional Development Coordinator (PDC) for Practice Nursing in each HSE area.

For the latest information on **relevant education, study days, seminars and conferences in your area**, please contact your local Professional Development Coordinator for Practice Nurses (details on last page of this leaflet).

The ICGP (www.icgp.ie), INMO (www.inmo.ie), various 3rd level institutions and Centres for Nursing & Midwifery Education (CNMEs) around the country also offer a wide range of **study days and educational programmes that are relevant to Practice Nurses**.

Online courses are also available via An Bord Altranais (www.nursingboard.ie), ProMed (www.promed.ie), British Medical Journal (www.bmj.com), Univadis (www.univadis.ie), HSE (www.hseland.ie).

OTHER SOURCES OF RELEVANT INFORMATION

“The Practice Nurse – a Guide to Nursing in General Practice” produced by the ICGP with the assistance of the Irish Practice Nurses Association in 2006 and available to IPNA & ICGP members only via the members’ area of both websites.

“Practice Nurse Information Guide for General Practice” produced by the HSE and available at <http://www.lenus.ie/hse/bitstream/10147/51015/1/PracticeNursebook08.pdf>

“Practice Manager’s Manual” produced by the HSE and available at <http://www.lenus.ie/hse/bitstream/10147/51033/1/PracticeManagersBook08.pdf>

“An Information Guide for Practice Nurses, 2010” Published by the Information Department of the INMO. This is available on the INMO website.

Practice Nurse Section, INMO

Contact: Mary Power, Section Officer, Irish Nurses & Midwives Organisation, Whitworth Building, North Brunswick Street, Dublin 7. Telephone: 01-676 0137 Fax: 01-661 0466 Website: www.inmo.ie (click on “Sections” and then “GP Practice Nurses” for contact details).

RESEARCH/CLINICAL ARTICLES RELEVANT TO PRACTICE NURSING

Contact IPNA for information on any relevant research carried out by both members and non-members. IPNA members can access links to relevant articles and journals on the Research page of the IPNA website.

INFORMATION ON CNS/ANP GRADES IN PRACTICE NURSING:

For information on Clinical Nurse Specialist and Advanced Nurse Practitioner grades, contact: The National Council for the Professional Development of Nursing & Midwifery, 6-7 Manor Street Business Park, Manor Street, Dublin 7. Telephone: 01-8825300 Fax: 01-8680366 Website: www.ncnm.ie

PRACTICE NURSING IN THE FUTURE

Nurse Prescribing

Practice Nurses were involved in the Pilot Project on Nurse Prescribing and the IPNA made a submission to the Consultation Process on the Extension of Prescriptive Authority to Nurses and Midwives. 9 Practice Nurses have recently completed/commenced Nurse Prescribing courses and 6 are now Registered Nurse Prescribers.

Primary Care Teams

The IPNA, PDCs and Practice Nurse Section of the INMO are currently working to ensure that the Practice Nurse role is fully included in the development of the Primary Care Teams around the country. Two Practice Nurses are currently chairpersons of their local Primary Care Team.

PRACTICE NURSE JOBS MAY BE ADVERTISED IN THE FOLLOWING PUBLICATIONS:

“Nursing in General Practice” (bi-monthly Journal of the IPNA)

Sent free of charge to all IPNA members. Also available by subscription.

Published by GreenCross Publishing, 7 Adelaide Court, Adelaide Road, Dublin 2.

Contact Maura Henderson, Publisher, at e-mail: maura@greencrosspublishing.ie

For back issues, please see www.greencrosspublishing.ie.

“The World of Irish Nursing” (WIN) and “Nursing in the Community” (Journals of the INMO)

Sent free of charge to all INMO members.

Published by: MedMedia Ltd., 25 Adelaide Street, Dun Laoghaire, Co Dublin.

Telephone: 01-280 3967 Fax: 01-280 7076 website: www.medmedia.ie

“Nursing in the Community” A monthly publication sent free of charge to those on the Practice Nurse register of the INMO.

Contact: The Editor, Nursing in the Community, 25 Adelaide Street, Dun Laoghaire, Co Dublin.

Telephone: 01-280 3967 Fax: 01-280 7076 e-mail: community@medmedia.ie

“Irish Medical Times”

Published by Medical Publications (Ire) Ltd., 24-26 Ormond Quay, Dublin 7.

Telephone: 01-817 6300 Fax: 01-8176345 Website: www.imt.ie

“Irish Medical News”

Available at www.irishmedicalnews.ie

Irish Independent, Sunday Independent, Irish Times, local newspapers, etc.

SALARY, TERMS AND CONDITIONS

For information on salaries, terms and conditions please contact the Irish Nurses & Midwives Organisation, Whitworth Building, North Brunswick Street, Dublin 7.

Telephone: 01-676 0137 Fax: 01-661 0466 Website: www.inmo.ie

Irish Practice Nurses Association

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www.irishpracticenurses.ie

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COORDINATORS FOR PRACTICE NURSING

One of the recommendations of the Commission on Nursing (1998) was to appoint a Professional Development Coordinator (PDC) for Practice Nursing in each HSE area to facilitate Practice Nurses in their continuing professional development. In 2001, following representation to the Department of Health by the IPNA and the Practice Nurse Section of the INMO, funding for these positions was granted.

HSE South (Cork, Kerry)

Marie Courtney, Professional Development Coordinator for Practice Nursing

NMPDU, 8a South Ring Business Park, Kinsale Road, Cork, Co Cork

Phone: 021-4927468 Fax: 021-4927474 e-mail: marie.courtney@hse.ie

HSE: Dublin North East (North Dublin City & County, Fingal County)

Rhonda Forsythe, Professional Development Coordinator for Practice Nursing

PCCC, Health Service Executive, Swords Business Campus, Balheary Road, Swords, Co Dublin.

Phone: 01-8908740 Fax: 01-8908707 Mobile: 087 2198098 e-mail: rhonda.forsythe@hse.ie

Term-time.

HSE: Dublin Mid-Leinster (South-West Dublin, West Wicklow, Kildare)

Rita Lawlor, Professional Development Coordinator for Practice Nursing

Primary Care Unit, Block E, Westland Park, Nangor Road, Clondalkin, Dublin 12.

Phone: 01-4609667 or (direct line) 01-4609686 Mobile: 086-3837432 Fax: 01-4609697 e-mail: rita.lawlor@hse.ie

HSE West (Galway, Mayo, Roscommon)

Kathy McSharry, Professional Development Coordinator for Practice Nursing

CNE, St. Mary's Campus, Castlebar, Co. Mayo.

Tel: 094 9042164 Fax: 094 9042075 mobile: 087 1206184 e-mail: Kathy.McSharry@hse.ie

HSE South (Carlow, Kilkenny, South Tipperary, Waterford, Wexford)

Patricia McQuillan, Professional Development Coordinator for Practice Nursing

NMPD, Office Complex, Kilcreene Hospital, Kilcreene, Co Kilkenny.

Phone: 056-7785613 Fax: 056 7785549 Mobile: 087-2281548 e-mail: patricia.mcquillan@hse.ie

HSE West (Donegal)

Ann McGill, Professional Development Coordinator for Practice Nursing

NoWDOC, Unit 1, Letterkenny Business Park, Oldtown, Letterkenny,

Tel: 074 91 67566 Mobile: 087 2199824 e-mail: annm.mcgill@hse.ie

(Monday, Tuesday, Thursday)

HSE West (Sligo, Leitrim, West Cavan)

Kathy Taaffe, Professional Development Coordinator for Practice Nursing

HSE West, Finn Valley Centre, Stranorlar, Co Donegal.

Mobile: 087 1321 424 Email: kathy.taaffe@hse.ie

(Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday each week: half-time)

HSE: Dublin Mid-Leinster (South-East Dublin, East Wicklow) **There is no PDC in post in this area at present.**

HSE Dublin Mid-Leinster (Laois, Offaly, Longford, Westmeath) **There is no PDC in post in this area at present.**

HSE Dublin North East (East Cavan, Monaghan, Louth, Meath) **There is no PDC in post in this area at present.**

HSE West (Limerick, Clare, North Tipperary) **There is no PDC in post in this area at present.**

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