

The role of the nurse within Australian general practice

Healthy Practices

APNA has produced a suite of resources to help general practices employ nurses and optimise their role in the general practice setting. Fulfilling these aims will help build Healthy Practices that deliver positive outcomes for their communities through nursing skills and expertise.

Nurses in general practice play an important role in the delivery of optimal and integrated patient care, quality improvement, and in the development of relevant policies and procedures. Nurses are also well placed to identify,

monitor and respond to local health population needs. In order to grow in this role, it is imperative that nurses are leaders within their own teams and advocate for their role in practice and broadly within their community.

Area of general practice	Competency domain	Benefits
<p>Data integrity and management</p> <p>Clinical observations including but not restricted to BP, height, weight, allergies, and patient histories, including medical, social, and family history.</p>	<p>3</p> <p>General Practice Environment</p>	<p>Patient files reflect accurate clinical and demographic information that ensures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - best patient outcomes - time efficiency for the practice team - Privacy Act compliance - accreditation compliance in meeting standards.
<p>Treatment room operation and clinical care</p> <p>Clinical observations and procedures including, but not restricted to, spirometry, ECG, wound management, triage, vaccinations and immunisation, venepuncture, and cervical smears.</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Nursing Care</p>	<p>Nurses skilled at performing this team based patient care results in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - safe, effective evidence-based care - time efficiency for medical staff - improved patient journey and efficiency of clinical care delivery - efficient flow of patients through practice setting - effective management of urgent and non urgent presentations - delivery of care that meets local population health issues - client satisfaction.
<p>Recall and reminder systems</p> <p>Systems management for abnormal result recall and preventive health reminders.</p>	<p>3</p> <p>General Practice Environment</p>	<p>Nurse coordinated programs ensure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - safe, effective evidence-based and best practice - time efficiencies for medical staff - mitigation of medico-legal risks - increased patient numbers.

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<p>Clinical resource management (stock control) Management, ordering and control of clinical supplies.</p>	<p>3 General Practice Environment</p>	<p>Nurse monitoring ensures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - appropriate supply, storage and use of clinical supplies - budgetary maintenance and containment of clinical resource costs.
<p>Accreditation process See also Resource 16 Achieving and maintaining RACGP accreditation and Resource 21 The nursing role in general practice accreditation.</p>	<p>3 General Practice Environment</p>	<p>Nurses are well positioned to support and demonstrate leadership in ensuring accreditation compliance with regard to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - infection control and sterilisation - cold chain management - staff health - health promotion - health records - physical environment of the practice - recall and reminder systems - relevant policies and procedures - quality and safety.
<p>Chronic disease and terminal medical conditions management programs Terminal medical conditions and chronic health conditions including, but not restricted to, diabetes, asthma, cardiovascular, cerebrovascular accident, and musculoskeletal disorders.</p>	<p>4 Collaborative Practice</p>	<p>Nurse coordinated models results in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - delivery of evidence-based care to meet the needs of the local health population - timely response to changing community needs - reduction in admissions to hospital - patients access to allied health care - increased SIP (Service Incentive Payments) payments - increased PIP (Practice Incentives Program) payments - increased income to practice - integrated team approach allowing maximum delivery of care to the community.
<p>Health assessment and preventive healthcare Healthy Kids Check*; 40 to 49 years at high risk of developing type 2 diabetes; 45 and 49 at risk of developing a chronic disease; 75 years and older; Permanent residents of a residential aged care facility; People who have an intellectual disability; Humanitarian entrants who are resident in Australia with access to Medicare services; Former serving members of the Australian Defence Force.</p>	<p>2 Nursing Care</p> <p>4 Collaborative Practice</p>	<p>Nurse coordinated models result in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - safe evidence-based delivery of care - integrated planned care results in improved patient management and potential reduction of crisis situations - increased income to the practice - integrated team approach allowing maximum delivery of care to the community.

* No longer funded under Medicare

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<p>Coordinated Veterans' Care (CVC) Program</p> <p>Veteran Gold Card holders with chronic and/or complex care needs: congestive heart failure, coronary artery disease, pneumonia, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, or diabetes.</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Nursing Care</p>	<p>Nurse coordinated program that aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - improve management and quality of life - prevent unplanned hospitalisation - increase income for the practice - increase time efficiency for medical staff allowing them to continue conducting other consultations
<p>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Assessments</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Collaborative Practice</p>	<p>Nurse coordinated models ensure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - safe evidence-based delivery of care - improved management and quality of life - integrated team approach allowing maximum delivery of care to the local population health needs.
<p>Nurse leadership and advocacy</p>	<p>1</p> <p>Professional Practice</p>	<p>Leadership and advocacy results in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - integration of care in the general practice setting - the practice team understanding and investing in any nurse coordinated models that ensure the success of the programs - team consultation and collaboration for best practice outcomes - advocacy of the primary health nurse role that promotes understanding with consumers and other health professionals.

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Nurses are a healthy investment.

APNA provides general practice support and advisory services to help you employ and optimise the nursing role in your practice. Healthy practices, strengthening communities.

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