

Other training is also available for practice nurses that includes:

- B4 School Check training
- Te Tiriti O Waitangi
- Interpreter workshops
- Diabetes fundamentals.

Why practice nursing?

- The opportunities to keep learning
- Knowing you can make a difference
- Continuity of care
- Working in a “challenging and rewarding” environment
- Every day is different
- A passion for the community and patient advocacy.



The philosophy for nursing

The overarching philosophy of nursing within the Pegasus Health environment is that of professional collegiality and inclusiveness; acknowledging differences in service provision and settings.

Vision

That we are highly skilled and compassionate leaders in primary and community based nursing; working collaboratively to improving healthcare outcomes for all our populations, through advocacy, education and shaping policy.

Mission

To make a valued contribution to the community, providing targeted healthcare to the people of Waitaha Canterbury, through effective and high quality nursing practise.

For further information
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Introduction to Practice Nursing



Practice nurses have an interesting and exciting role in primary care as they often provide the first point of contact for people seeking health services.

Practice Nurses are highly trained nurses who work with GPs and others in primary care practices. They provide a range of services including:

- Immunisations
- Wound care
- Long term condition management
- Community liaison
- Counselling
- Sexual health consults
- Laboratory procedures
- Emergency care
- Infection control
- Cryotherapy
- Cervical smear taking
- ECG
- Minor surgery
- IV therapy
- Nursing assessments
- Telephone advice
- Health promotion
- Immigration checks
- Well Child checks
- And more...

Key skills required for practice nursing

Comprehensive history taking and **assessment** skills are a fundamental part of the practice nurse role.

Good communication skills are particularly important as practice nurses are often the first point of contact within the health team.

Patient advocacy skills are vital as the practice nurse will often be called upon to liaise with others about patient care.

Intermediate computer skills are desirable as almost all practices have computerised records, and use several databases/tools.

It is important to have **excellent time management** skills and be well organised. A practice nurse's day is busy and often involves the unexpected.

Resourcefulness is important as practice nurses often have to think 'outside the square'.

Being a **team player** makes working in a small team easier and more rewarding for everyone.

IMPORTANT: enthusiasm for ongoing learning. It is essential that practice nurses keep up to date and that their skills and knowledge remain evidence-informed and current.



Support from Pegasus Health

The Nursing team provides professional and clinical leadership to the nurses within the organisation, the 24 Hour Surgery, and the general practice nursing workforce.

The Nursing team support also includes:

- Orientation for all nurses employed in a Pegasus Health general practice
- Supportive First Year of Practice (SFYP) Programme and Professional Development & Recognition Programme (PDRP)
- Clinical skills training
- Ongoing professional support to all Pegasus Health practice nurses.

Educational opportunities:

Practice Nurses attend peer-led, evidence informed education sessions promoting clinical best practice provided by the Clinical Quality and Education team.

