

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION – POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

KEY FACTS

Programme name	Primary Care (Practice Nursing)
Award	Postgraduate Diploma (PgDip)
School	School of Health Sciences
Department or equivalent	Division of Health Services Research & Management
Programme code	NUPDPCP01
Type of study	Full or Part Time
Total UK credits	120
Total ECTS	60

PROGRAMME SUMMARY

The Post Graduate Diploma (PgDip) Primary Care (Practice Nursing) has been developed as a full time or part time programme for registered nurses, who are employed as practice nurses.

Primary care is experiencing an unprecedented cycle of change. Developments in structure, administration and roles all have implications for practitioners employed within this sector. Health policies have led to the need for increasing numbers of practice nurses to meet the service need of clients, their carers and families. The increasing range of services that a practice nurse can provide has changed since the introduction of the new General Medical Services contract in April, 2004. The diversity of services that the practice nurse can provide can range from essential; additional and enhanced services. It is the diversity of services now available within the primary care sector that has led to increasing educational and training needs for practice nurses.

For all of you undertaking this programme, you will develop a systematic, inquiring and in depth knowledge of your discipline. You will be able to develop competence and expertise for your practice drawing on research and contemporary sources of evidence to underpin your clinical role as a practice nurse.

Aims

The overarching aim of this postgraduate degree is to develop you as a practice nurse with a systematic understanding of knowledge, and a critical awareness of current problems and/or new insights, much of which is at, or informed by, the forefront of your work as a practice nurse. The application of a more in-depth comprehensive understanding of a strong evidence base will enable you to meet the complex demands of clients within the general practice setting, taking into consideration the socio-economic and public health needs that many of these clients face, particularly when clients have existing co morbidities (Quality Assurance Agency, 2014)ⁱ.

The programme consists of 8 modules – 3 of which are core namely:

- Research Methods 15 credits)
- Health Policy and Politics (15 credits)
- Key Concepts of Practice Nursing (15 credits).

When you are funded for your programme, your choice of optional modules will be determined by either your funder for your programme or your employing organisation.

Your objectives are:

- To provide flexible and contemporary education that meets the changing, challenging and dynamic environment of general practice
- To demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of the evidence base supporting their clients management (QAA, 2014)
- To develop critical awareness of how psychosocial and public health issues can impact on the health status of clients, their carers and families by prioritising clients to ensure that their physical, social and psychological needs are assessed and responded to (NMC, 2018)ⁱⁱ
- To develop competence and expertise for your practice drawing on research and contemporary sources of evidence to underpin your clinical engagement as a practice nurse
- To demonstrate originality in the application of knowledge, together with a practical understanding of how established techniques of research and enquiry are used to create and interpret knowledge in practice nursing (QAA, 2014)
- To continually critically assess, appraise and review the ongoing and changing needs of clients, carers and their families through the critical evaluation of current research or advanced scholarship (QAA, 2014)
- To demonstrate self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems, and act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks in the general practice setting (QAA, 2014)
- To act as an advocate for the client, their carers and families and always preserve the safety of the client by working within the limits of your competence (NMC, 2018)
- To strive to attain the highest standards of practice in order to practise effectively with the best available evidence (NMC, 2018)
- To promote professionalism and trust by respecting the dignity of every client, regardless of age, gender, religion, socio-economic class sexual orientation and ethnic or cultural group to ensure (NMC, 2018).

Registration Period

Full Time

The normal/minimum period of registration for the programme is 1 year. The maximum period of registration for this programme is 3 years.

Part Time

The normal/minimum period of registration for the programme is 2 years. The maximum period of registration for this programme is 5 years.

WHAT WILL I BE EXPECTED TO ACHIEVE?

On successful completion of this programme, you will be expected to be able to:

Knowledge and understanding:

- Critically analyse and evaluate your own professional accountability in applying skills, knowledge and attitudes in making changes to your general practice environment
- Critically examine and evaluate the outcomes of your clinical practice by reflecting on and in practice
- Critically explore, evaluate and rationalise how changes within the NHS have impacted on the care delivered within primary care, using reflective practice
- Demonstrate with the use of in depth reflection how evidence based practice can be used to underpin the delivery of your care within the general practice setting
- Critically appraise research and literature relating to practice, and identify strategies for introducing and utilising the findings in practice.

Skills:

- Critically evaluate and appraise ways in which the needs of clients, their carers and their families are recognised and met to promote and enhance physical and psychological health and prevent disease
- Analyse and critically apply models of information systems, information management and other aspects of management in primary care
- Critically identify and assess the needs of clients, their carers and their families using a holistic approach. Critically analyse and evaluate the outcomes of this approach
- Draw on relevant knowledge to identify the social, political and economic influences on the health of clients, their carers and families and how these impact on an individual's health beliefs
- Work co-operatively within a multidisciplinary team, whilst always adhering to the guidelines of the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC), (2018) The Code. Professional standards of practice and behaviour for nurses and midwives
- Contribute to, critically evaluate and appraise strategies designed to promote and improve health and prevent disease in clients and groups

- Utilising appropriate assessment skills and knowledge, effectively manage and support the practice's immunisation clinics, including the use of Patient Group Directives and reflective evaluation to enhance your practice
- Critically appraise key philosophical and political concepts and critiques in primary health care
- Evaluate programmes of care, including those for patients with long term conditions.

Values and attitudes:

- Critically examine and demonstrate understanding of the major ethical issues facing today's primary health care organisations and practices
- Critically evaluate and understand the principles of reflective practice and use these to develop and enhance personal and professional practice
- promote, develop and enhance concordant relationships with clients and their carers with the aim of positively influencing their health choices and decisions

HOW WILL I LEARN?

Primary Care Nursing practice encompasses a diverse range of knowledge and skills. The emphasis of many of the learning and teaching elements of this programme will be aimed at encouraging the analysis and evaluation of various theoretical and practice orientated dimensions of primary care, and promoting collaborative working through multidisciplinary learning. To ensure that you are given the opportunity to deal with complex issues systematically and creatively, and demonstrate originality in solving problems, the learning and teaching strategies you will be exposed to will include:

- Formal lectures followed by practice-orientated seminars
- Student-led seminars around specific primary care topics and disciplines
- Peer appraisal; group projects
- Educational visits and practice based seminars involving people working in different areas, and at different levels of primary care policy and practice development and implementation.

Practice, assessment, supervision and specialist nursing tutorial support will be essential elements of the programme and in addition to the provision of practice-orientated core modules.

A proactive emphasis will be placed at encouraging you to critically reflect; explore and analyse contemporary evidence based research and importantly how this is applied in the primary care sector. The learning and teaching strategies will include a mixture of

the following: lectures; group work; clinical workshops; educational visits and the completion of a practice based portfolio.

WHAT TYPES OF ASSESSMENT AND FEEDBACK CAN I EXPECT?

Assessment and Assessment Criteria

Both formative and summative assessments will be transparent throughout the practice nursing programme. Formative feedback will be available on group/individual presentations and/or tutorial support.

Summative assessment will integrate a variety of assessments, which will be dependent on the choice of optional modules including:

- Essays
- Skills schedule
- An Exam
- Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE)
- Poster development and supporting paper
- Protocol development and a supporting paper
- A research proposal

Assessment Criteria are descriptions, based on the intended learning outcomes, of the skills, knowledge or attitudes that you need to demonstrate in order to complete an assessment successfully, providing a mechanism by which the quality of an assessment can be measured. Grade-Related Criteria are descriptions of the level of skills, knowledge or attributes that you need to demonstrate in order to achieve a certain grade or mark in an assessment, providing a mechanism by which the quality of an assessment can be measured and placed within the overall set of marks. Assessment Criteria and Grade-Related Criteria will be made available to you to support you in completing assessments. These may be provided in programme handbooks, module specifications, on the virtual learning environment or attached to a specific assessment task.

Feedback on assessment

Feedback will be provided in line with our Assessment and Feedback Policy. In particular, you will normally be provided with feedback within three weeks of the submission deadline or assessment date. This would normally include a provisional grade or mark. For end of module examinations or an equivalent significant task (e.g. an end of module project), feedback will normally be provided within four weeks. The timescale for feedback on final year projects or dissertations may be longer.

Assessment Regulations

In order to pass your Programme, you should complete successfully or be exempted from the relevant modules and assessments and will therefore acquire the required number of credits.

The pass mark for each module is 50%.

Resit: you will normally be offered one resit attempt. If you do not participate in the first assessment you will be offered a resit, whether or not you have extenuating circumstances.

If you are successful in the resit, you shall be awarded the credit for that module. The mark used for the purpose of calculation towards your Award shall be calculated from the original marks for the component(s) that you passed at first attempt and the minimum pass mark for the component(s) for which you took a resit.

A student who has not met the pass requirements for a Module due to failure in a resit may, at the discretion of the Assessment Board, be offered a second resit subject to the following criteria:

- The student has failed no more than one assessment.
- An overall average of at least 60% in the taught elements of the programme excluding the failed assessment must have been achieved.
- A second resit cannot be offered for any practical failed assessment (either placement or in-house clinical).

All modules will be weighted equally in this process so a 15 credit module would be given equal consideration as a 30 credit module.

If you fail to meet the requirements for the Programme, but satisfy the requirements for a lower-level Award, then a lower qualification may be awarded as per the table below. If you fail to meet the requirements for the Programme and are not eligible for the award of a lower level qualification, the Assessment Board shall require that you withdraw from the Programme.

If you would like to know more about the way in which assessment works at City, please see the full version of the Assessment Regulations at: http://www.city.ac.uk/data/assets/word_doc/0003/69249/s19.doc

WHAT AWARD CAN I GET?

Post Graduate Diploma

To obtain the Postgraduate Diploma Primary Care (Practice Nursing) you need to complete 3 core modules (15 credits each) as listed in Table 1, "What Will I Study" section, and 5 optional modules from the SHS CPPD portfolio.

Programme Stage	HE Level	Credits	Weighting (%)	Class	% required
1	7	120	100	With Distinction	70%
				With Merit	60%
				Without	50%
				Classification	

Post Graduate Certificate

To obtain the Postgraduate Certificate in Primary Care (Practice Nursing) you need to complete 1 core module (15 credits) as listed in Table 2, “What Will I Study” section, and 3 optional modules from the SHS CPPD portfolio.

Programme Stage	HE Level	Credits	Weighting (%)	Class	% required
1	7	60	100	With Distinction	70%
				With Merit	60%
				Without Classification	50%

Students who choose to undertake this programme have already obtained an undergraduate nursing degree (i.e. either a First or a 2.1) in Nursing (generally in Adult Nursing) and are therefore, already registered nurses on the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) register. Completion of the PgDip Primary Care (Practice Nursing) would lead to an academic qualification only and not a registerable qualification.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

The Postgraduate Diploma Primary Care (Practice Nursing) will consist of 3 x core modules of 15 credits each (Refer to Table 1) and 5 x 15 credit optional modules from the SHS CPPD portfolio. Students who decide to complete a Post graduate Certificate (PgCert) Primary Care (Practice Nursing) undertake 1 x core module and 3 x optional modules to receive their award (Refer Table 2).

Table 1 – Core modules Post Graduate Diploma

Module Title	SITS Code	Module Credits	Core/ Elective	Can be compensated?	Level
Research Methods	NMM700	15	C	No	7
Health Policy and Politics	PHM005	15	C	No	7
Key Concepts in Practice Nursing	NMM939	15	C	No	7

Table 2 – Core module Post Graduate Certificate

Module Title	SITS Code	Module Credits	Core/ Elective	Can be compensated?	Level
Key Concepts in Practice Nursing	NMM939	15	C	No	7

Optional modules

Your choice of optional modules will be determined by either your funder for your programme or your employing organisation.

A sample of the optional modules are as follows:

- Module Code (NMM011) - Diabetes Care
- Module Code (NMM048) - Asthma/COPD
- Module Code (NMM320) - Cervical Cytology
- Module Code (NMM945) - Key Concepts in Practice Nursing (Module 2)
- Module Code (NMM084) - Clinical Assessment in Primary Care
- Module Code (NMM944) - Long Term Conditions
- Module Code (CHM002) - Education in the workplace (a mentorship module)
- Module Code (NMM119) - Innovations in healthcare leadership and management perspectives.

If you wish to achieve a Masters you will need to register on the MSc Primary Care (Practice Nursing) and complete a dissertation module (60 academic credits) in addition to the content of the Postgraduate Diploma.

TO WHAT KIND OF CAREER MIGHT I GO ON?

All practice nurses who apply for the Post graduate Diploma (PgDip) are already employed as practice nurses. This is a mandatory entry requirement for this programme. The completion of the PgDip or for those practice nurses who exit with a Post graduate Certificate award will enable those practice nurses to begin to develop higher order critical skills, which will enhance their clinical practice underpinned by a strong evidence base.

Furthermore, this will enable those practice nurses who have completed the PgDip to command a higher salary in their current post by extending their leadership and clinical skills.

If you would like more information on the Careers support available at City, please go to: <http://www.city.ac.uk/careers/for-students-and-recent-graduates>.

WHAT PLACEMENT OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE?

N/A

WILL I GET ANY PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION?

N/A

HOW DO I ENTER THE PROGRAMME?

- You must have current registration on Part 1 or Part 2 of the NMC register and have no restrictions placed on your registration at the point of application and/or during the tenure of your programme
- You must be employed as a Practice Nurse and this must be continuous for the duration of your programme
- You must have an honours undergraduate degree with either a First or 2.1 classification
- We will need to see evidence that you have undertaken study in the past 5 years (including assessment results).

Recognition of Prior Learning RP(E)L Requirements

RPL HE 6 Credits

Students who have obtained relevant level HE 6 credits through CPPD study in the five years before registering on the programme can apply to use RPL to transfer a maximum of 30 credits towards the award of Graduate Diploma Primary Care (Practice Nursing).

There can be no transfer of credit from a module or modules from a programme already awarded to another programme.

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ⁱ Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) (2014). *UK Quality Code for Higher Education. Part A: Setting and Maintaining Academic Standards*. Available from: https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/quality-code/part-a.pdf?sfvrsn=4f09f781_18

ⁱⁱ Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) (2018). *The Code. Professional standards of practice and behaviour for nurses midwives and nurse associates* NMC: London.