

Returning to nursing

Getting back to the job that you love may be easier than you think. The support you receive means you can return to nursing with confidence.

Coming back

If you are no longer a registered nurse, there are a three ways you can return:

- readmission
- a return to practice course
- a Test of Competence (ToC)

Readmission

You might be able to re-register with the [NMC](#) ^[1] without doing a course or a test. You'll need:

- 450 registered practice hours over the last three years or 750 hours over the last five, including any practice hours gained on the COVID-19 temporary register
- 35 hours of continuing professional development (CPD) in the last three years
- to provide three character references

You can apply directly through the NMC website ^[2] or if you want to use hours worked through the COVID-19 temporary register, you'll need to email the NMC ^[3] to request a readmission pack.

Further information on requirements and process is also available on the NMC website ^[4].

You'll also be given £500 for childcare, travel and book costs.

Return to practice course

Depending on how long you have been out of practice, the course can take between three and 12 months to complete.

By the end, you'll have the skills and knowledge to be able to return with confidence.

- Find out more about the return to practice courses ^[5]
- Find out more about the return to practice course for general practice nursing ^[6]

Financial support

NHS Health Education England (HEE) will pay for your course and placement fees. You'll also be given £500 for childcare, travel and book costs.

"My biggest concern was my first day back on the ward. But I felt incredibly supported."

Read Willow's story on her journey back to nursing ^[7]

What do I do next?

Use our course finder ^[8] to look for return to nursing programmes and trusts that provide placements in your area. You can also use our course finder ^[9] to look for return to practice courses in general practice nursing.

Some NHS employers recruit nurses directly to return to practice courses. Just visit NHS Jobs ^[10] and search 'return to practice' for live vacancies. You can also find some at the bottom of this page.

Universities in Wales also run RTP nursing programmes. Visit the NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership website ^[11].

NMC ^[1] test of competence

You may find that the test of competence is a more appropriate route back into practice.

It's made up of two parts:

- a multiple-choice computer based test (CBT)
- a practical test known as the **Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE)** ^[12]

Applying

You can apply through the NMC website ^[13]. On the **NMC** ^[1] website there are also lots of preparation materials and essential reading to help you prepare for the test.

Financial support

There is a cost for taking the test and the NHS will pay this but you may have to pay up front. You can then claim reimbursement once you have registered with the **NMC** ^[1] and are in employment.

What next?

If you think this could be the route for you, you can email us ^[14] and we'll put you in touch with someone in your local area who can offer tailored advice.

- **Live return to practice vacancies on NHS Jobs**

Expand / collapse

- View Vacancy ^[15]

Return to Practice Nurse

Huddersfield, HD3 3EB



Salary:

£19737.00 to £21142.00 a year



Type:

Fixed term



Employer:

Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Foundation Trust

- View Vacancy

- View Vacancy ^[16]

Return to Practice Nurse

Swindon, SN3 6BB



Salary:

£500.00 to £1000.00 a session



Type:

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Employer:

Great Western Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

■ [View Vacancy](#)

○ [View Vacancy](#) ^[17]

Return to Practice Nurse

Stanmore, Middlesex, HA7 4LP

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Salary:

£23,521 - £24,926 per annum inc. (pro rata)

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Type:

Fixed term

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Employer:

Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Trust

■ [View Vacancy](#)

○ [View Vacancy](#) ^[18]

Return to Practice Nurse - Bristol

Bristol, BS1

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Salary:

See advert

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Type:

Fixed term

■

Employer:

Sirona care and health CIC

- View Vacancy
- View Vacancy [19]

Return to Practice Nurse - North Somerset

North Somerset, BS21 6FW

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Salary:

See advert

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Type:

Fixed term

■

Employer:

Sirona care and health CIC

- View Vacancy

- View Vacancy [20]

Return to Practice Nurse - South Gloucestershire

South Gloucestershire, BS34 5PD

- **Salary:**

See advert
- **Type:**

Fixed term
- **Employer:**

Sirona care and health CIC
- View Vacancy

Get your guide to returning to nursing

Sign-up and receive expert information and advice on coming back

Let's go [21]

Source URL: <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/nursing/returning-nursing/returning-nursing>

Links

[1] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#NMC>

[2] <https://online.nmc-uk.org/Account/Login>

[3] <mailto:readmission@nmc-uk.org>

[4] <https://www.nmc.org.uk/registration/returning-to-the-register/readmission/>

[5] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/nursing/returning-nursing/return-nursing-practice-programme>

[6] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/nursing/returning-nursing/return-general-practice-nursing>

[7] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/nursing/returning-nursing/real-life-story-willow-maart>

[8] https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/career-planning/course-finder?field_leading_to_a_career_in_tid=3195&field_qualification_type_tid=All&field_study_mode_tid=All&

[9] https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/career-planning/course-finder?field_leading_to_a_career_in_tid=3239&field_qualification_type_tid=All&field_study_mode_tid=All&

[10] <https://www.jobs.nhs.uk/>

[11] <http://www.weds.wales.nhs.uk/return-to-practice-for-nurses-midwives-a>

[12] https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#Objective_structured_clinical_examination_OSCE

[13] <https://www.nmc.org.uk/registration/returning-to-the-register/completing-a-test-of-competence-for-return-to-practice/>

[14] <mailto:returtopractice.wm@hee.nhs.uk?subject=NMC%20Test%20of%20competence%20>

[15] <https://www.jobs.nhs.uk/xi/vacancy/916535020>

[16] <https://www.jobs.nhs.uk/xi/vacancy/916557683>

- [17] <https://www.jobs.nhs.uk/xi/vacancy/916572098>
- [18] <https://www.jobs.nhs.uk/xi/vacancy/916580338>
- [19] <https://www.jobs.nhs.uk/xi/vacancy/916486669>
- [20] <https://www.jobs.nhs.uk/xi/vacancy/916580320>
- [21] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/nursing-registration>