Returning to nursing

We are returning nurses so if you're thinking of coming back, you're in the right place!

You may need to undertake a return to practice course [1] if you are no longer a registered nurse. There's also a specific return to practice programme if you wish to return and work as a general practice nurse [2].

Another route back into nursing and midwifery is the NMC Test of Competence [3] (ToC), launched in January 2020.

Sign-up and receive expert information and advice on returning to nursing [4]

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.

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

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 programme [1]
- Find out more about the return to practice programme for general practice nursing [2]
- Read Sarah's story [5]
- Read Willow's story [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.

If you decide to do the NMC Test of Competence, HEE will also reimburse any associated 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 [6]

What do I do next?

Use our course finder [7] to look for return to nursing programmes and trusts that provide placements in your area. You can also use our course finder [8] to look for return to practice - general practice nursing programmes. We also have a useful set of FAQs [9].

A small number of universities in Wales also run RTP nursing programmes. Visit the NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership website [10] for details.

If you are looking to do the NMC test, contact returntopractice.wm@hee.nhs.uk [11]. They will be able to refer you to the right person in local your area who can advise you further.

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

Links
[7] 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&field_region_tid=All&field_provider_name_tid=All
[8] 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
[11] mailto:returntopracticce.wm@hee.nhs.uk