

Practice nursing video transcript:

Debbie Brown:

The role of a general practice nurse is varied. It's one of the most exciting jobs that you can have I feel in nursing, because you have everything from birth to death. You don't know what is going to be coming through the door. You can come into general practice and be what we call a general practice nurse and that's what we call a treatment room nurse, and that's anything from doing blood pressures, ear syringing, dressings, leg ulcers or other dressings, doing smears doing immunisations, doing a lot of what we call public health work as well.

Kathryn Taylor:

No two days are ever the same which is one of the interesting things and challenging things about the job. I specialise in respiratory disease here. Each of the nurses has a different specialist area. So I can be running an asthma clinic and doing routine planned care for people with asthma or indeed seeing people who are undergoing who have a flare up of their condition so acute management.

Margaret Haughton-James:

There are misconceptions about practice nursing in so much as the role you can feel isolated, you do work on your own, and a lot of nurses feel that they do not get enough protected time for their education and for development. However, in hindsight this has changed a great deal over the years. We have a lot of support from the Practice Nurse Association which is run by Royal College of Nursing. Also there is a practice nurse forum which you can access online. So there is a lot of support in place.

Debbie Brown:

There is also another area around practice nursing that I think some people may not be aware of and it is actually one of the only places I think you can really do some flexible hour working, because surgeries now are open predominantly open from 7 in the morning till maybe 7-8 at night, so there is the opportunity there for some nurses perhaps to do job-shares, to do mornings or afternoons. A lot of practice nurses actually do part-time work and there is a lot of practice nurses out there like myself that also do full-time work, but the opportunity is there.

Kathryn Taylor:

As a practice nurse you undertake a wide variety of roles and can see patients right across the age spectrum from young children and babies doing immunisations right through to old people, potentially end of life care as well. You can gain an in depth knowledge of long term conditions such as coronary heart disease, respiratory conditions such as asthma and COPD.

Margaret Haughton-James:

What I enjoy about practice nursing is that I get to know the whole family and it's on a one to one basis and it spans over all those years as well from nought to one hundred and it's very rewarding to watch people grow. As well as sickness we do health prevention and cure so it's nice that we do the promotion of health.

Practice nursing is a very rewarding, very stimulating career because I find that the family do come in and they always ask for you. The continuity of care is very important to a lot of people.

Kathryn Taylor:

I would say if anyone was interested in a career in practice nursing I would definitely suggest getting in contact with a local practice and go in and spend some time there to find out a little bit about what the job involves. It's very different from any other role in nursing I find, but equally it's a very interesting and challenging role.