

Programme Descriptor

Return to General Nursing Practice

Aim

The aim of the programme is to provide Registered General Nurses who wish to return to clinical practice following an absence of five years or more with an educational opportunity to develop further and expand their knowledge, skills and competence necessary for the integration of theory and practice in a changing healthcare environment in line with NMBI recommendations (NMBI 2022).

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of the RTNP programme the participant returning to clinical practice as a registered nurse should be able to:

- Demonstrate their commitment to professional practice, knowledge and clinical skills in the context of changing healthcare policy and practice
- Assist individuals, families and groups achieve optimum health, independence, recovery or a peaceful death in a caring, compassionate and professional manner
- Implement the nursing process (assess, plan, implement and evaluate) in relation to the nursing needs of the individual, family and community in healthcare settings
- Demonstrate a knowledge base and level of competence in clinical practice skills essential for safe practice, which are grounded in recent evidence-based nursing research
- Explore, critically appraise and reflect on the application of nursing theory to practice
- Participate as an effective member of a healthcare team and in the MDT approach to the care of patients/clients
- Demonstrate an appreciation of nursing skills, such as analysis, critical thinking, problem solving and reflective practice
- Demonstrate an awareness of research and its application to evidence based nursing practice
- Meet the standards and requirements laid out by NMBI for RTNP participants (NMBI 2022).

Programme Structure

The Programme is divided into two parts:

Part One:

Theoretical instruction embraces three modules of study. The three modules will augment the programme participants' previous knowledge and skills. It will endeavor to assist programme participants to advance that knowledge to be applied to their specific discipline of nursing. **A minimum of 104 hours dedicated to the Theoretical & Clinical Skills component (or as deemed appropriate).**

Part Two:

The Clinical Practice Placement will involve programme participants being allocated to an NMBI approved clinical practice area. A preceptor will be assigned to support each programme participant for the duration of his or her clinical practice experience. **A minimum of 208 hours must be dedicated to the clinical ward placement.**

Specified learning activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete Specified Self Directed Learning Units, Clinical Skills workshops, group discussion, online lectures and clinical tutorial.
Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A written assignment of 2,000 words (+/-) (70%) and oral presentation (30%): 10-15 minutes approx. (Total combined assessment (written and oral) = 100%).
Clinical Assessment	<p>Programme participants' attainment of competence in clinical practice (Part 2 of programme) will be assessed using a competency assessment tool (Appendix V (iii)) (NMBI, 2015b) available at: www.nmbi.ie. Each programme participant must be deemed clinically competent in all of the learning outcomes and complete a reflective learning log, to successfully complete the clinical component of the programme.</p>
Total Hours:	<p>208 hours (minimum) must be dedicated to the clinical ward placement and 104 hours to the Theoretical and Clinical Skills Component. Total 312 hours minimum.</p>