

How do you become a

COMMUNITY CHILDREN'S NURSE

There are a number of pathways to become a Community Children's Nurse. Follow the steps below to get started.

First steps

First step is to access websites that will provide you with detailed information on the role of the Community Children's Nurse:

Community Children's Nursing in the 21st Century - Developing and Strengthening CCN Services: www.qni.org.uk. NHS England – Maximising the role of CCN teams Service contribution to high quality, compassionate and excellent health and wellbeing outcomes for children cared for in community settings: www.england.nhs.uk. Health Careers: www.health.careers.nhs.uk. Step into The NHS: www.stepintothens.nhs.uk; Nursing and Midwifery Council: www.nmc.org.uk; Royal College of Nursing: www.rcn.org.uk.

What qualifications are required to become a Community Children's Nurse?

- Must be a Registered Children's Nurse on Part 1 of the NMC Register

Top tips

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- Contact the local Primary Care Trust or your Primary Care Network and ask to speak to a member of the Community Children's Teams.
- As Community Children's Nursing teams are limited across the country it might be useful to contact the local Health Visitor Team or School Nursing team via email or telephone at your local surgery.
- If you are fortunate to have a Community Children's Nursing team in your area ask to meet with them to discuss the role and ask if it would be possible to shadow a Community Children's Nurse.
- Speak to the Children's ward at your local hospital as some Community Children's Nurses are part of the children's nursing team and may be employed by the local hospital.

Other sources

Other sources of support and advice

- Contact your local University to find out about the Community Children's Nursing Specialist Qualification programme.
- Ask to speak to the Children's Nurse academic lead or the academic lead responsible for the Community Children's Nursing Specialist programme
- Check the Association of District Nurse Educators website – www.adne.org.uk - as the academics in this organisation may also deliver the Community Children's Nursing programme

Careers

What are the career opportunities?

- Becoming a Community Children's Nurse Team Leader
- Become a Community Children's Nurse Programme Practice Assessor
- Become an Independent Prescriber
- Work towards a Specialist Role in the Community – such as Community Children's Palliative Care
- Lead or other disease specific roles focussing on children
- Work with schools where children have specialist medical, physical, emotional needs.
- Work with child psychologists
- Become involved with commissioning of community services
- Work towards becoming a Director of Community Nursing
- Look for opportunities to sit on Primary Care Network boards or CCG boards.

