

Definition of a Paediatric Nurse

A paediatric nurse is....

A nurse who has successfully completed a recognised course of study and practice experience in the nursing care of infants, children and adolescents / young people.

<i>A nurse</i>	A nurse is a person who has completed a nursing education programme and is qualified and authorised in her or his country to practise as a nurse (ICN).
<i>who has successfully completed</i>	Demonstrates agreed level of <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Practical competence• Theoretical knowledge• Appropriate values and attitudes
<i>a recognised course of study and practice experience</i>	A course that has the approval of the national body that specifies the theory / practice content and required competencies for paediatric nursing. This may be a government regulatory body, the national paediatric nursing association, an academic body or a combination of these. Consumer, provider, medical and other groups may also be involved.
<i>in the nursing care of infants, children and adolescents [young people]</i>	Defined in more detail later (core tasks) but covering: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rights based, holistic, child and family centred care• Promotion of physical and mental health and well-being• Accident and disease prevention• Child protection• Care of infant, child and adolescent with: acute/chronic/life-threatening/limiting physical and mental conditions; disability/ impairment (physical/intellectual/sensory) in all healthcare settings.

The core task of the European Paediatric Nurse (EPN) is to protect and to promote the rights and health of children, and provide care in specific/dedicated healthcare services to meet the needs of children and their families within hospitals and communities across Europe.

In the recognition that the family are central in the child's life, the EPN has a specific responsibility for both and therefore should work in partnership with the child and his/her family in the provision of healthcare services.

The second core task of the EPN is to care for children of all ages, from birth to adolescence. All children in different stages of development have their own reality and react differently to health care problems and their environment and therefore need a specific and individual approach. The EPN needs specific knowledge and specialised skills to meet the unique physical, psychological, spiritual and social needs of children and young people whilst recognising their individual present and future developmental needs.

NOTE:

Following initial registration paediatric nurses should provide evidence demonstrating the maintenance and further development of competencies etc. Some mandatory elements. The evidence provided from practitioners must demonstrate learning from both a clinical and theoretical perspective.

October 2005