



PNAE
Paediatric Nursing Associations of Europe

WEBSITE: Defintion “Paediatric Nurse”

Defintion “Paediatric Nurse”



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It started in Istanbul => REPORT

Action12 : A small group of PNAE members offered to be a working group and will start this process.

A small group of PNAE members who attended have kindly offered to be a working group and will start this process.

We will start with the agreed first high-level document - **Definition of Paediatric Nurse**. This one was deemed most important to get right first.

Once we have **the format, style and content** agreed of that one then we will agree the next and so on.

Definition “Paediatric Nurse”



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Group – 8 members from 6 countries: Italy, UK, Greece, Belgium, Ireland, Sweden

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Defintion “Paediatric Nurse”



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Online Teams → 5 meetings and 1 summarize deadline

16/12

- Goals based on the existing website
- Recommendations from the working group in Istanbul
- Task distribution – green markings

10/01

- Not rewrite the definition – update ‘paediatric nurse’
- Paediatric age group definition overview: WHO – American Academy of paediatrics, 2017 – review – ChatGPT – Co-Pilot
- Introduction and 3 chapters: definition – main roles - education

27/01

- WHO defintion: newborn, children and young people
- The introduction
- Waiting publishing article ‘Matt in Plymouth’ - when its out we simply cite it but keep our document as PNAE update

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Online Teams → 5 meetings and 1 summarize deadline

18/02

- Write shorter
- Compile intro – definiton – main roles (TOP 5) – education

04/03

- Update ‘paediatric nurse’
- Refine: Introduction and 3 chapters: definition – main roles - education

20/03

- Summarize
- Draft document => PNAE feedback?

Defintion “Paediatric Nurse”



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1. INTRODUCTION

The Paediatric Nursing Associations of Europe (PNAE) members have updated the statement “Definition of Paediatric Nurse” to provide a comprehensive description of roles and competencies of Nurses who care for newborns, children, young people, and their families across Europe.

The updated PNAE document outlines the main roles and competencies of paediatric nurses necessary to ensure children's rights, aligning with the values of children's "best interest" declared in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989). Article 3 of the Convention emphasises that the best interests of the child should be a primary consideration in all actions concerning children, ensuring protection, care, and standards for institutions and staff. Additionally, World Health Organisation standards highlight that health professionals and support staff must have the appropriate skills to fulfill the health, psychological, developmental, communication, and cultural needs of children³. Moreover, paediatric nurses should actively participate in and promote children’s rights to health, ensuring every child has the right of the highest attainable standard of health . The PNAE statement, “Definition of Paediatric Nurse” can serve as a starting point for urging governments and policymakers in every European country to recognise paediatric nursing as a specialised field of nursing. This recognition requires additional education, competencies, and experience beyond generic generalist training to ensure the quality of paediatric care, is aligned with a “child-friendly health care approach”.

Art. 24 United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989.

Art. 24.1 “States Parties recognize the right of the child to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health and to facilities for the treatment of illness and rehabilitation of health. States Parties shall strive to ensure that no child is deprived of his or her right of access to such health care services.”

³WHO Standards for improving the quality of care for children and young adolescents in health facilities, 2018 Standard 7.2.

“The goal of the child-friendly health care approach is to ensure that the right things happen, to the right children, at the right time, in the right place and using the right staff, who are supported in the right way, to achieve the right outcomes, all at the right cost” Art. 29 Guidelines of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on child-friendly health care, 2011, available at:

<https://rm.coe.int/guidelines-of-the-committee-of-ministers-of-the-council-of-europe-on-c/16808c3a9f>

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DEFINITION

Definition of a Paediatric Nurse

A Registered Nurse who has successfully completed a recognised course of study and practice experience in the nursing care of newborns, children, and young people across various levels and intensities of care.



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12

Roles and Responsibilities

Specialised Care: Paediatric nurses are highly skilled, educated, and compassionate healthcare professionals specialising in the unique healthcare needs of newborns, children, young people and their families.

Comprehensive Knowledge: They demonstrate comprehensive knowledge and understanding of paediatric nursing, promoting health behaviours, planning and caring for children in acute or chronic or critical or life-limiting conditions, contributing to improving health outcomes.

Developmentally Appropriate Care: Possessing specialised knowledge in growth and development, and expertise in recognising and managing a wide range of health conditions, they adapt nursing care to the developmental stage of each newborn, child, and young person, recognising that needs and abilities differ according to growth, development, and maturity.

Research and Quality Improvement: Paediatric nurses enhance the health and well-being of newborns, children, and young people through a commitment to research, evaluation, and quality improvement initiatives.

Upholding Dignity and Integrity: They uphold the dignity and integrity of newborns, children, young people, and their families by recognising and valuing their diverse values, spiritual beliefs, and cultural backgrounds.

Education and Empowerment: Paediatric nurses provide education and resources that empower families to actively participate in the care of newborns, children, and young people, having the same approach toward children and young people when appropriate.



Advocacy: They advocate for the rights and needs of newborns, children, and young people with their families, championing their inclusion in healthcare decisions and establishing peer networks to support advocacy.

Effective Communication: Paediatric nurses maintain open, honest, and timely communication with newborns, children, young people, and their families, actively listening and acknowledging their unique perspectives and needs.

Holistic Approach: They use a child and family-centred holistic approach to healthcare delivery, promoting self-care when appropriate and as mutually negotiated.

Collaboration: Paediatric nurses work in various healthcare settings and collaborate with physicians and other healthcare team members to coordinate care plans.

Supervision and training: They provide supervision to colleagues to improve performance, through mentoring functions that are also aimed at students and newly hired colleagues

Continuous education: Paediatric nurses care for newborns, children, young people, and their families in a safe, compassionate, and competent manner, accepting professional responsibility for their actions, committing to continuous learning and professional development.



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Education

The formal education programme for a paediatric nurse in Europe involves a structured combination of formal study and practical experience. Key features:

- **Accreditation and Approval:** The programme must be approved by an authorised accrediting or certifying institution, which could be a government regulatory body, an academic institution, a national paediatric nursing association, or a collaboration of these entities.
- **Qualification Level:** It requires a minimum of European Qualifications Framework (EQF) Level 6, which corresponds to a bachelor's degree or equivalent in most European countries.
- **Curriculum Content:** The programme includes specific theory and practice components. It covers the competencies needed for paediatric nursing, ensuring that nurses are well-prepared to meet the unique healthcare needs of newborns, children, young people and their families.
- **Stakeholder Involvement:** Besides the core institutions, other groups including parents, patients, healthcare providers, medical organisations, and related professionals may also contribute to shaping the curriculum.

This comprehensive education ensures paediatric nurses are equipped with the specialised skills and knowledge required to care for newborns, children, and young people in diverse healthcare settings across Europe.



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