



## **IGPNEA Principles of General Practice Nursing Course Policy**

**Commenced January 2023**

(Updated Oct 2023)

### **Policy Objective:**

*To ensure transparency, to protect the Course Directors and IGPNEA*

### **Background:**

IGPNEA Education Committee works hard to develop new educational opportunities for all GPN members of IGPNEA.

Karen Canning and Roisin Doogue have previously presented modules in Immunisation and Cardiology. Through this work they developed a course outline for a Principles in General Practice Nursing course.

Karen and Roisin approached the IGPNEA to run the course through IGPNEA directly as opposed to going through an outside organisation. The reason for this was for IGPNEA to have control over the course for its members and also to significantly keep the costs down and not pay a 3<sup>rd</sup> party organisation.

IGPNEA agreed to host the course and a financial agreement was put in place to ensure fees were kept as low as possible for GPN's.

Under the agreement with IGPNEA Karen Canning and Roisin Doogue will be Course Directors.

### **Course Outline:**

IGPNEA is launching its *Principles of General Practice Nursing* course in January 2023. The course is aimed at those nurses in the early stages of their general practice careers and those nurses considering joining general practice from another setting. It will give an understanding of the role carried out by general practice nurses (GPNs); the wide variety of skills required to work safely; information on how to link to evidence-based educational resources for further learning and the opportunity for further career development within the general practice setting.

The course content has been strategically planned to orientate the participant to practice safely in their new working environment. The therapeutic relationship in general practice

differs from that of the acute healthcare setting. Care interventions span all age groups, throughout the life course and across all fields of nursing. The course will afford the participant the opportunity to consolidate his/her prior learning with the knowledge and skills to manage and deliver quality care in a range of issues in the primary care environment, within the realms of wellness and prevention of chronic disease and multi morbidity.

Optimal support and direction will be provided for those who are taking the course while undertaking other significant work and family commitments. The course values peer to peer learning and utilises the experience of those more established GPNs to give practical advice on working in real-life settings, integrating theory and practice, which optimises patient care and practitioner development.

The course shall consist of 12 modules, delivered virtually via zoom, over a 6-week period followed by a face-to-face practical skills day. NMBI Category 1 approval for each module. There will be a limit of 30 participants per course. It is envisaged to run the course 3 times per year. All of the module tutors are experienced in working in general practice and will bring a unique insight into the practicalities of working in this exciting environment.

#### **Course Modules:**

- Module 1: Scope of Practice Issues
- Module 2: Cardiovascular
- Module 3: Obesity, Inflammatory conditions, End of Life Care
- Module 4: Immunisation
- Module 5: Asthma
- Module 6: Sexual Health
- Module 7: COPD, Smoking Cessation
- Module 8: Wound Care, Dermatology
- Module 9: Women's Health
- Module 10: Men's Health, Cancer Referral Pathways
- Module 11: Mental Health
- Module 12: Diabetes
- Skills Day: Blood pressure, ECG, Respiratory, Immunisation, Dressings, Protocols

#### **Course Speakers:**

The Course Directors will source experts in the clinical area of each module. If a GPN is available to present on the clinical area, they will be considered before a Dr or other specialist to ensure accuracy for the GP setting and terminology relevant to GP nurses.

If the Course Directors wish to approach a IGPNEA volunteer for their clinical expertise, this is not considered as part of their IGPNEA role, and a Declaration of Intent will be completed by the IGPNEA volunteer.

If the IGPNEA volunteer is also a Trustee of the Association. Payment for tutoring is permitted as this is not part of the trustee role. They would be tutoring as a professional in the field of the subject area. All payments to IGPNEA volunteers for the Principles Course will be clearly and transparently declared in our Annual Audited Accounts.

All speakers will be remunerated at the same rate regardless of their Clinical level of expertise.

The remuneration rate is €100 per hours for zoom sessions and €250 daily rate for skills day.

### **Course Skills Day:**

The final part of the course is a face-to-face skills day.

This will take place on the Saturday immediately after the final zoom session at the Midlands Park Hotel, Portlaoise.

The area will be set up into 6 stations:

- Station 1**      Cardiovascular related - B/P monitoring etc
- Station 2**      Cardiovascular related - ECG
- Station 3**      Immunisation
- Station 4**      Respiratory
- Station 5**      Diabetes
- Station 6**      Wound Management – dressings etc

Where suitable a pharmaceutical company can sponsor a station (€500) and present relevant information and products to educate GPN's.

### **Course Financial Structure:**

#### *Income:*

Fee per participant: €300 (non-members €400) – Predicted income from 100 participants = €30,000 (max €40,000 if all non-members)

#### *Costs:*

Medcafe hosting fee: €4900 Plus VAT

Speaker fees for 12 modules: €3600 (100 x 3 x 12)

Day fees for Skills Day: €1000 (€250 x 4) plus travel expenses

Midlands Park Hotel per skills day approx. €1700

Consideration needs to be made for remuneration for IGPNEA staff that are required to work for the skills day as this is outside of their working hours.

