

Nurse Practitioners: The role and the future

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Nurse Practitioner

Emergency Department

Joondalup Health Campus

What is a Nurse Practitioner?

- Experienced Registered nurses who have undertaken further tertiary education to Masters level
- Extensions to practice
 - Prescribing medications
 - Initiating diagnostic imaging and laboratory tests
 - Referral to medical specialists
 - Admitting and discharging patients
 - Approving absence from work certificates

- Assess, investigate, diagnose, manage, refer and/or discharge patients
- Emphasis on health education and health promotion
- Not to be confused with Practice Nurses

Role in Emergency Department

- See patients who present with minor injury or illness
- See approx. 15 patients a day
- Education and Research

John

- Pain relief
- Assess his injury
- Digital nerve block
- Explore and assess wound
- X-ray
- Tetanus
- Antibiotics
- Dressing
- Refer
- Workers compensation certificate

Eva

- Pain relief
- Assess
- X-ray
- Refer
- Plaster
- Admit
- IV cannula and fluids

Joe

- Observations
- Assess
- Dressing
- Script
- letter to GP
- Medical certificate

Sharon

- MVIT

Zac

- Observations
- Assess
- Glue and dressing
- Advice
- Discharge



The Future

- Expanding into other areas of ED
- "A vision"
 - Nurse Practitioner led Minor injury and illness clinics alongside or nearby EDs



Are you sure the water is not that cold?