



PERINATAL

Specialty Nursing Education (SNE) Pathway

This document outlines a recommended path to support your specialty nursing career journey at Fraser Health.

Getting started in Perinatal

The Perinatal Career Pathway was established through a partnership between Learning Strategies and the Maternal Infant Child and Youth (MICY) program.

This pathway offers a recommended approach to your specialty nursing career journey with Fraser Health. You decide where to begin, and you can enter or exit the pathway whenever needed.

Each person's journey into specialty nursing will be unique.

| | |
|--|-----------|
| What is Perinatal Care? | 3 |
| Your Journey in Perinatal Care | 4 |
| Perinatal Care Pathway | 5 |
| Early Exposure..... | 5 |
| Employed Student Nurse (ESN)..... | 5 |
| Final Preceptorship | 6 |
| New Graduate | 7 |
| Work Experience / Transition Line | 8 |
| Internationally Educated Nurses (IENs) | 9 |
| Specialty Nursing Education (SNE)..... | 9 |
| Courses | 10 |
| BCIT Perinatal Specialty Program | 10 |
| Fraser Health Perinatal Advanced Training (PAT)..... | 10 |

What is Perinatal Care?

Perinatal nursing involves providing specialized care to birthing individuals, and their families throughout the pregnancy, labour, birth and postpartum journey. Fraser Health provides perinatal services in eight (8) hospitals and one outpatient centre, from Burnaby to Chilliwack including three (3) high-volume regional referral centres including Surrey Memorial Hospital, Royal Columbian Hospital and Abbotsford Regional Hospital.

Services range from low-risk to complex and are provided by specialty-trained perinatal nurses in a variety of settings, including hospitals, outpatient clinics and in the home.

Perinatal nurses play a key role in patient education, fetal monitoring, labour support, neonatal resuscitation and breastfeeding/chestfeeding support, for which professional development opportunities are offered. They work as part of interdisciplinary teams that include maternal fetal medicine specialists, obstetricians, pediatricians, family practice providers, midwives, allied and public health to ensure provision of safe, holistic, trauma-informed care.



Self-reflection: Take time to consider whether this specialty is the right fit for you. The option to exit the pathway remains throughout.

Early Exposure

See what it's all about.

[Learn more >](#)

Nursing students*

Employed Student Nurse

Get paid clinical experience before you graduate from your Baccalaureate nursing program.

[Learn more >](#)

Final Preceptorship

Completion of a final clinical consolidation as part of your Baccalaureate nursing program.

[Learn more >](#)

New Graduate

Build knowledge, confidence and competence during your transition from student to RN.

[Learn more >](#)

Work Experience / Transition Line

Supported acute practice and readiness education to prepare you for transition into specialty nursing training.

[Learn more >](#)

Specialty Nursing Education (SNE)

Get sponsored to become specialized in perinatal care – we'll pay 100% of your tuition and full-time wages.**

[Learn more >](#)

Practice as a specialty-trained RN in perinatal

You've completed your education and are now specialized in perinatal care – congratulations!

You will have novice competencies as a beginner in this specialty area.

This pathway offers a recommended approach to your specialty nursing career journey with Fraser Health. You decide where to begin, and you can enter or exit the pathway whenever needed. Each person's journey into specialty nursing will be unique.

Learn more about each step by selecting '[Learn more >](#)' or simply follow the steps in sequence throughout this document.

*Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) students

**Eligibility and some conditions may apply for SNE.

Internationally Educated Nurses (IENs)



Nurses trained outside of Canada can participate in the [New Entrant Program](#). You are encouraged to have a readiness conversation with a perinatal manager to map out your nursing career pathway. [Learn more >](#)

Perinatal Care Pathway

Early Exposure

What is Early Exposure?

Nursing students may obtain exposure to specialty practice areas through early acute care learning experiences embedded within their basic nursing programs, coordinated by their Post-Secondary Institution.

Requirements

You must be enrolled in a Baccalaureate Registered Nursing (RN) Program.

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Employed Student Nurse (ESN)

What is an Employed Student Nurse?

Get hired by Fraser Health to gain paid, clinical job experience before you graduate from your Baccalaureate nursing program.

What does this mean for Perinatal Care?

No specific education is required. However, preference may be given to candidates with BCIT NSNE 7100 Theory 1 and NSPN 7150 Breastfeeding.

Recommended sites for ESN experience

Any Fraser Health maternity unit, including:

- Langley Memorial Hospital
- Peace Arch Hospital
- Chilliwack General Hospital
- Ridge Meadows Hospital
- Burnaby Hospital
- Surrey Memorial Hospital
- Royal Columbian Hospital
- Abbotsford Regional Hospital

[Learn more](#) about becoming an ESN at Fraser Health.

If you require more information, please reach out to Student.Placement@fraserhealth.ca

Self-reflection: Take time to consider whether this specialty is the right fit for you. The option to exit the pathway remains throughout.

Final Preceptorship

What is Final Preceptorship?

Final preceptorship happens during the completion of your final clinical consolidation as part of your Baccalaureate nursing program. Learners may consider preceptorship options to align with future career laddering plans. Placement on the same unit as previous ESN work is possible through mutual agreement between learner, post-secondary institution and unit manager.

Note: Final preceptorships must only be arranged through formal channels of communication between the post-secondary institution and Fraser Health (i.e. HSPnet). Connect with your BSN clinical coordinator at your post-secondary institution for more information.

BSN Learning Pathway (LP) opportunity exists in perinatal. Connect with your BSN LP lead at your post-secondary institution for more information.

What does this mean for Perinatal?

No specific education is required. However, preference may be given to candidates with BCIT NSNE 7100 Theory 1 and NSPN 7150 Breastfeeding.

Recommended sites for final preceptorship experience

Final preceptorships may be arranged, subject to operational capacity and availability, within any Fraser Health maternity unit.

- Langley Memorial Hospital
- Peace Arch Hospital
- Chilliwack General Hospital
- Ridge Meadows Hospital
- Burnaby Hospital
- Surrey Memorial Hospital
- Royal Columbian Hospital
- Abbotsford Regional Hospital

[Learn more](#) about student placements.

***Self-reflection:** Take time to consider whether this specialty is the right fit for you. The option to exit the pathway remains throughout.*

New Graduate

What is a New Graduate?

Grow your knowledge, confidence and clinical competence as you transition from student to registered nurse.

New graduates are hired into a 0.7–1.0 full-time equivalent (FTE) position (for at least six months) and are supported through supernumerary time, structured education and dedicated mentorship.

You will also participate in New Graduate Program workshops throughout your first year, designed to help you thrive, build resilience and manage the challenges of your new role.

Throughout this period, your manager and educator will meet with you to support you through this stage and the stages that follow.

What does this mean for Perinatal?

In perinatal, this means that you will work as a post-partum only nurse while you consolidate your skills. During new graduate orientation and mentorship, you will complete the Neonatal Resuscitation Provider (NRP) certification. There may be other education opportunities required to help build your competencies as a nurse such as breastfeeding education.

All hires are expected to transition towards advanced education and move into full-scope perinatal nursing practice; nurses may not permanently remain in a post-partum only scope.

Recommended site for new graduate experience:

Any Fraser Health maternity unit

- Langley Memorial Hospital
- Peace Arch Hospital
- Chilliwack General Hospital
- Ridge Meadows Hospital
- Burnaby Hospital
- Royal Columbian Hospital
- Abbotsford Regional Hospital
- Surrey Memorial Hospital

[Learn more](#) about the New Graduate Nurse Program.

If you require more information, please reach out to NurseNEP@fraserhealth.ca

Self-reflection: *Take time to consider whether this specialty is the right fit for you. The option to exit the pathway remains throughout.*

Work Experience / Transition Line

What is work experience or a transition line?

As you begin your role, you will work towards consolidating your skills and gaining work experience in an acute setting as preparation for specialty nursing practice.

When available, transition lines allow you to work in the specialty care area at your current level of competence while you consolidate towards registration in Specialty Nursing Education within 6-12 months, or a mutually agreed-upon timeframe with your leadership.



To view and apply for available transition line opportunities on the unit, visit the [Fraser Health Careers website](#) or MyCareer Hub (internal portal) and search for “*transition line perinatal*”.

During orientation and mentorship, you will complete the Neonatal Resuscitation Provider (NRP) certification. There may be other education opportunities required to help build your competencies as a nurse providing post-partum care such as breastfeeding/chestfeeding education.

All hires are expected to transition towards advanced education and move into full-scope perinatal nursing practice; nurses may not permanently remain in a post-partum only scope.

Recommended sites for transition line experience

Any Fraser Health maternity unit

- Langley Memorial Hospital
- Peace Arch Hospital
- Chilliwack General Hospital
- Ridge Meadows Hospital
- Burnaby Hospital
- Royal Columbian Hospital
- Abbotsford Regional Hospital
- Surrey Memorial Hospital
 - Also offers opportunity for perioperative experience

Self-reflection: *Take time to consider whether this specialty is the right fit for you. The option to exit the pathway remains throughout.*

Internationally Educated Nurses (IENs)

All internationally educated nurses (IENs) will be screened to determine qualifications for the specialty care area. Based on previous experience, IENs may be hired into either a transition line (if available) or a specialty-qualified line.

For those who are eligible, the [New Entrant Program](#) provides a paid, supported transition into practice within Canada's health care system.

Start your career at Fraser Health with a minimum of 132 supernumerary hours and 9.5 hours of program-funded education. These experiences support the development of a competency-based learning plan aligned with your career goals. You'll build on your international nursing experience while engaging in interactive educational workshops and simulation sessions.

Specialty Nursing Education (SNE)

What is Specialty Nursing Education?

Registered nurses (RN) can get sponsored to complete Specialty Nursing Education programs at Fraser Health, and we'll pay 100% of your tuition and full-time wages. Some eligibility and conditions apply.

If you require more information, please reach out to SNE@Fraserhealth.ca

Fraser Health offers two streams of sponsored education for registered nurses wishing to pursue a career in perinatal nursing: Fraser Health in-house Perinatal Advanced Training (PAT) program and the BCIT perinatal program. Both the Fraser Health in-house and BCIT perinatal curriculums provide nurses with the novice perinatal competencies, suitable for safe and independent practice. The manager will work with you to determine the most appropriate program for registration, based on availability.

- Fraser Health Return of Service Agreement required: **YES**

Sponsorship into perinatal advanced education is offered at the following sites:

Any Fraser Health maternity unit

- Langley Memorial Hospital
- Peace Arch Hospital
- Chilliwack General Hospital
- Ridge Meadows Hospital
- Burnaby Hospital
- Royal Columbian Hospital
- Abbotsford Regional Hospital
- Surrey Memorial Hospital

Courses

BCIT Perinatal Specialty Program

Fraser Health offers partial sponsorship of BCIT's perinatal program. Completion of sponsored education will give the learner the required novice perinatal competencies, suitable for safe and independent practice.

Sponsorship includes:

Prerequisite

Offered online over twelve (12) weeks

- NSPN 7100 – perinatal theory 1

Full-time studies

Offered as a compressed time frame (CTF) over twelve (12) weeks

- NSPN 7200 –Perinatal theory 2
- NSPN 7150 –The breastfeeding experience
- NSPN 7250 - Fetal Health Surveillance (FHS) certification
- NSPN 7300 –Perinatal clinical 1
- NSPN 7500 –Perinatal clinical 2

Graduates will have earned 21 credits towards the BCIT perinatal certificate.

View course details here: [Specialty Nursing – BCIT](#).

Fraser Health Perinatal Advanced Training (PAT)

Sponsorship includes:

Prerequisites

- Valid Neonatal Resuscitation Provider (NRP) certification
 - Must be valid for at least 30-days after program end date
- Step 2 breastfeeding course
 - Access to course will provide to all registered learners prior to the program start date.

Full-time studies

Offered in a compressed time frame (CTF)

Blended learning includes:

- Modularized theory using AWHONN - Perinatal Orientation and Education Program
- Synchronous virtual lectures and guest speakers
- Skills lab and high-fidelity simulation
- Fetal Health Surveillance (FHS) certification

Clinical experience includes:

- Instructor-led clinical at Surrey Memorial Hospital Family Birthing Unit
- Preceptor-led clinical at your sponsoring site

Graduates will receive a certificate of completion from Fraser Health.