

# NONTRADITIONAL NURSING CAREER MAP



## DIRECT PATIENT CARE

These are roles where nurses interact directly with patients, although you may see some clinical roles that you did not know existed!

## LEADERSHIP AND POLICY

These positions focus on shaping healthcare environments, policies, and procedures rather than direct patient care.

## TECHNOLOGY AND INFORMATICS

These roles focus on integrating nursing with healthcare technology to improve systems and patient outcomes.

## BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Nurses in these roles often run their own businesses or work in corporate settings, leveraging their clinical expertise in new ways.

## CONSULTING AND ADVISORY

In these positions, nurses serve as expert advisors, often helping with legal cases or organizational improvements.

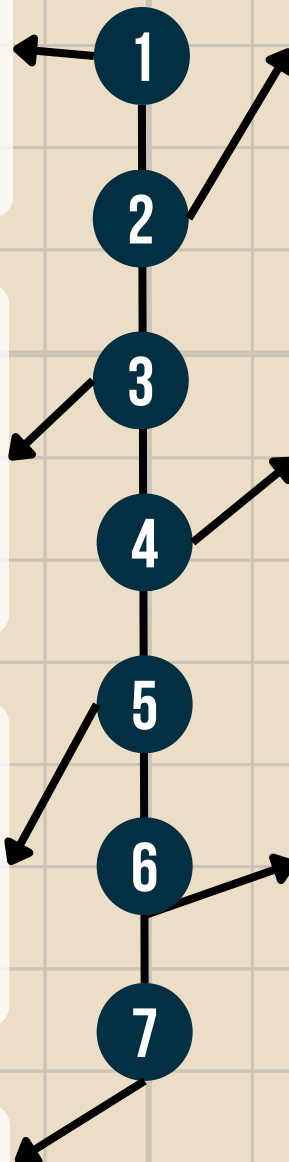
## RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

These roles focus on driving nursing and healthcare innovation through research and exploration of new treatments.

## MISCELLANEOUS AND ADVANCED PRACTICE

Too hard to categorize, too important to leave out!

CLICK THE JOB CATEGORIES  
TO LEARN MORE!



# **APPENDIX A:**

## **CAREER MAP OF NONTRADITIONAL ROLES**

# DIRECT PATIENT CARE

- **Case Management Nurse:** Coordinates patient care across healthcare settings, ensuring proper treatment and recovery.
- **First Assist Nurse:** Assists surgeons during operations, often in specialized surgical settings. Used widely during Cardiothoracic surgery.
- **Home Health Nurse:** Provides care to patients in their homes, managing chronic illnesses and offering patient education.
- **Forensic Nurse:** Assists in legal cases, providing care to victims and collecting evidence.
- **Travel Nurse:** Temporarily works in various locations, filling in for staff shortages.
- **Telehealth Nurse:** Provides care and consultation to patients through telecommunication.
- **Occupational Health Nurse:** Focuses on employee health, managing workplace injuries and wellness programs.
- **Flight Nurse:** Offers critical care to patients during air transport in emergency settings.
- **Hospice Nurse:** Provides end-of-life care for terminally ill patients, focusing on comfort and quality of life.
- **Correctional Facility Nurse:** Provides care to incarcerated individuals, addressing a wide range of health issues.
- **Night Nurse/ Night nanny:** A position where you care for a baby during the night while the parents are sleeping. Generally used during the first few weeks of life or newborn stage and does not always have to be an RN, although this can be helpful with babies requiring medical care.
- **Private, In-Home Nurse:** Provides one-on-one care to patients in private residences, often focusing on long-term care needs.
- **Clinical Transplant Coordinator:** Manages patients pre- and post-transplant, ensuring compliance with protocols
- **Public Health Nurse:** Works in community settings, promoting health education and preventive care.

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# LEADERSHIP AND POLICY

- **Nurse Administrator:** Manages nursing staff and operations in healthcare facilities.
- **Nurse Policy Analyst:** Works on healthcare policies at government or organizational levels to improve patient care.
- **Health Policy Nurse:** Influences health policies through advocacy and analysis, impacting large populations.
- **Nurse Lobbyist:** Advocates for healthcare reforms at the legislative level.
- **Nurse Consultant:** Provides expert advice to healthcare organizations on improving clinical practices.
- **Quality Nurse:** Focuses on quality improvement within healthcare organizations, enhancing patient outcomes.
- **Chief Nursing Officer (CNO):** Oversees the entire nursing staff within an organization, ensuring high-quality patient care while contributing to overall hospital strategy and leadership decisions.
- **Director of Clinical Operations:** Manages and directs clinical operations, focusing on improving patient care processes and ensuring compliance with healthcare regulations.
- **Public Health Director:** Leads public health departments or initiatives, creating and implementing health programs and policies to improve community health and prevent disease.

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# TECHNOLOGY AND INFORMATICS

- **Nurse Informatics Specialist:** Bridges clinical practice and IT, implementing and optimizing electronic health records and other healthcare tech.
- **Clinical Research Nurse:** Manages clinical trials, ensuring patient safety and adherence to protocols while advancing medical science.
- **Nurse Data Analyst:** Nurses who specialize in analyzing healthcare data to improve patient outcomes, resource allocation, and clinical operations.
- **Clinical Systems Analyst:** Responsible for implementing, maintaining, and optimizing electronic health record (EHR) systems and other clinical technology platforms.
- **Telehealth Nurse Coordinator:** Manages and coordinates telehealth programs, facilitating remote patient care via video calls, messaging systems, and monitoring devices.
- **Healthcare App Developer:** Nurses who collaborate with tech teams to design, test, and optimize apps focused on patient care, wellness, or healthcare delivery.
- **Nurse Automation Specialist:** Works on integrating robotic process automation (RPA) into clinical settings to enhance workflow efficiency and reduce manual tasks.
- **AI Integration Nurse Specialist:** Helps introduce and manage AI-based tools for diagnostics, predictive analytics, and treatment recommendations in clinical settings.
- **Health IT Trainer:** Teaches healthcare staff how to use new software, systems, and technology in a clinical setting, ensuring smooth transitions and system usage.
- **Biomedical Equipment Specialist:** Works closely with clinical engineers to oversee and manage the use and maintenance of advanced medical equipment.
- **Nurse Cybersecurity Consultant:** Provides expertise in safeguarding patient data and ensuring healthcare systems adhere to cybersecurity best practices.
- **Virtual Reality (VR) Health Specialist:** Works on implementing VR technology for nursing education or therapy programs for patients, particularly in pain management or rehabilitation.

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# BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

- **Nurse Entrepreneur:** Creates businesses in healthcare-related fields, such as wellness clinics or home care agencies.
- **Pharmaceutical Sales Representative:** Uses clinical knowledge to educate healthcare providers on new medications or treatments for pharmaceutical companies.
- **Medical Supply Representative:** This role involves using nursing expertise to sell and promote medical products, focusing on building relationships with healthcare facilities to meet supply needs.
- **Surgical Product Specialist Nurse:** Operating in a sales capacity for surgical supplies, this role emphasizes in-person support and expert guidance in the OR, blending nursing and product expertise for real-time surgical solutions.
- **Nurse Health Coach:** Provides wellness coaching by creating personalized plans to help clients meet their health goals.
- **Content creator:** Utilizes social media platforms to gain an audience and share knowledge or humor.
- **Consulting Nurse for Startups:** Works with healthcare startups to offer clinical insights during product development and implementation stages.
- **Home Care Agency Owner:** Manages a home healthcare service, employing nurses and caregivers to provide in-home patient care while overseeing business operations.
- **Travel Nurse Agency Owner:** Works with hospitals and clinics to staff nurses when there is a shortage at the facility.

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# CONSULTING AND ADVISORY

- **Legal Nurse Consultant:** Assists in legal cases involving healthcare, providing expert testimony or case analysis.
- **Clinical Consultant:** Offers clinical expertise to organizations, helping to streamline processes or improve care. May be used in pharmacy pillars of health plan companies.
- **Health Benefits Consultant:** Advises companies on structuring employee health benefits to improve well-being and productivity.
- **Clinical Educator:** Trains healthcare staff or patients, specializing in education about certain treatments or care.
- **Occupational Health Consultant:** Advises businesses on employee health and safety practices.
- **Nurse Business Consultant:** Advises healthcare organizations on business strategy, process improvement, and cost-effective practices using clinical expertise.
- **Risk Management Consultant:** Assesses and advises healthcare facilities on ways to minimize clinical risks, improve patient safety, and manage potential liabilities.
- **Healthcare Compliance Consultant:** Advises healthcare organizations on regulations and compliance issues to ensure adherence to industry standards and avoid legal risks.
- **Nurse Auditor:** reviews medical records and billing information to ensure accuracy, compliance with regulations, and proper documentation, often identifying areas for improvement in clinical and financial processes.

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# RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

- **Clinical Research Nurse:** Conducts scientific studies to advance healthcare and nursing practices.
- **Process Improvement Nurse:** Focuses on identifying inefficiencies and implementing process improvements within healthcare organizations to enhance patient care quality and operational efficiency.
- **Clinical Trial Manager:** Oversees the implementation and coordination of clinical trials, ensuring compliance with protocols and ethical standards in the testing of new treatments or medications.
- **Regulatory Affairs Nurse Specialist:** Works with regulatory bodies to ensure that clinical trials, medical devices, and pharmaceuticals meet legal and safety standards, guiding healthcare companies through the approval processes.
- **Nurse Data Analyst:** Analyzes healthcare data to identify trends, outcomes, and areas of improvement in patient care, often using data to inform future healthcare decisions and innovations.
- **Product Development Nurse:** Collaborates with medical device or pharmaceutical companies to offer nursing insight into the design, testing, and development of new healthcare products and technologies.
- **Nurse Innovator:** Specializes in creating or developing new healthcare solutions, such as medical technologies or patient care models, to solve emerging problems in the healthcare industry.
- **Nurse Clinical Informatics Specialist:** Focuses on improving healthcare delivery systems by implementing and refining electronic health records (EHR) and other digital tools, working closely with IT teams.
- **Healthcare Policy Researcher:** Investigates and analyzes healthcare policies and their impact on patient care, aiming to influence policy changes and improve healthcare systems on a large scale.
- **Clinical Nurse Advisor (Healthcare Tech Startup):** Provides clinical expertise to support product development, ensuring that healthcare technologies are aligned with real-world clinical practices and patient needs. They may also assist with user training, offer feedback on product usability, and help guide the startup in adhering to healthcare regulations and best practices.

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# MISCELLANEOUS AND ADVANCED PRACTICE

- **Patient Advocate:** Works to ensure that patients receive appropriate care and support throughout their healthcare journey.
- **BLS Instructor:** Teaches Basic Life Support skills to healthcare providers or the general public.
- **School nurse:** Provides healthcare to students and staff, manages chronic conditions and triages acute conditions, and promotes health education in an educational setting.
- **Camp Nurse:** Offers healthcare services, including first aid and medication administration, to campers and staff in outdoor camp environments.
- **Campus Health Clinic Nurse:** Provides healthcare services to college students and staff, addressing acute illnesses, preventive care, and promoting overall wellness on a college or university campus.
- **Medical Science Liaison (MSL):** Educates healthcare providers about new medical treatments or devices, often working for pharmaceutical or biotech companies. (this is highly competitive and often advanced degree is required)
- **Wellness Visit Nurse Practitioner:** Provides yearly visits in patients' homes, often for elderly or chronically ill individuals. Often hired by health plans for contract or salary roles.
- **Nurse Educator:** Play a critical role in teaching nurses clinical skills, providing updates on evidence-based practices, and delivering continuing education. This role ensures that nursing staff are competent in the latest techniques, promotes adherence to best practices, and helps maintain high-quality patient care standards.
- **Nursing Professor:** Teaches at colleges or universities, providing advanced nursing education, mentoring students, and often contributing to research and curriculum development.
- **Clinical Instructor:** Works directly with nursing students or new nurses in a clinical setting, guiding them through hands-on patient care, clinical procedures, and applying theoretical knowledge in real-world situations.

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