



CARE EDUCATION FORUM

Basic Information on Care Education in the Czech Republic

In the Czech Republic, there are two educational pathways for careers in health and nursing professions:

1st pathway

Educational Level	Institution	Example Profession/Programme
1st Educational Level	Secondary School of Health	Practical Nurse/Practical Nurse
2nd Educational Level	Higher Vocational School (DiS.)	General Nurse/Diploma Specialist in General Nursing
3rd Educational Level	Specialisation Courses	Specialised training programmes for non-physician healthcare professionals

2nd pathway

Educational Level	Institution	Example Profession/Programme
1st Educational Level (optional)	Secondary School of Health	Practical Nurse/Practical Nurse
2nd Educational Level	University (Bachelor's Degree)	General Nurse/General Nursing
3rd Educational Level	University (Master's Degree)	General Nurse (e.g. General Nurse - Intensive Care, General Nurse - Surgical Nursing, etc.)
	Or Specialisation Courses	Specialised training programmes for non-physician healthcare professionals

Additional training opportunities are also available for Social Care Workers (see below).



Health and nursing professions

1. DEGREE

Practical Nurse

Professional competence is obtained through a four-year programme at a Secondary School of Health, concluding with a final examination. Previously, this qualification was known as “Medical Assistant” (last used in the academic year 2018/2019).

For more information (available only in Czech):

Act No. 96/2004 Coll., on conditions for gaining and recognising qualifications for non-medical healthcare professions and related activities, § 21b.

zakon_96_2004_ve_zneni_pozdejsich_predpisu.pdf ([gov.cz](#))

- a) A Practical Nurse, without supervision and based on the physician’s diagnosis, provides or ensures basic nursing care. Such core competencies include monitoring physiological functions, hygiene care (including pressure ulcer prevention and rehabilitation methods), and managing diet and fluid intake.
- b) Based on the physician’s orders and without supervision, a Practical Nurse may administer medications, perform inhalation and oxygen therapy, collect capillary and venous blood, and manage other types of biological samples, as well as care for uncomplicated wounds.
- c) Under the supervision of a registered nurse, paediatric nurse, or midwife, a Practical Nurse can perform specialised nursing tasks, including patient education, assessing the patient’s social circumstances and determining the need for social worker involvement, and providing support to terminally ill patients and their families.
- d) Under the direct guidance of a registered nurse with specialised competence, a paediatric nurse with specialised competence, or a midwife with specialised competence, a Practical Nurse can perform advanced nursing tasks, including care for chronic wounds and stoma, assessing and maintaining vascular access sites, ensuring patency, and performing bladder irrigation.

For more information (available only in Czech):

Decree No. 55/2011 Coll., on the activities of healthcare workers and other specialised professionals, as amended, and Decree No. 158/2022 Coll., amending Decree No. 55/2011 Coll.

[Decree No. 55/2011 Coll.](#)

[Decree No. 158/2022 Coll.](#)



2. DEGREE

Qualifications for the profession of **General Nurse**, as well as for other roles such as midwife, paramedic, nutrition therapist, paediatric nurse, etc., are obtained through either (1) a Higher Vocational School programme (Diploma Specialist - DiS.) or (2) a three-year post-secondary Bachelor's degree in nursing at a university (BSc). Below is an example for the General Nurse qualification.

General Nurse

1st pathway

Professional competency for the role of General Nurse is obtained through at least three years of study in the "Diploma in General Nursing" programme at Higher Vocational Schools (in both full-time and part-time formats). The programme concludes with a final examination, which includes a theoretical exam, a foreign language examination, and the defence of a thesis. Graduates receive the title of Diploma Specialist (DiS.), which appears after their name.

The diploma includes a "Diploma Supplement," which helps to clarify the qualification, particularly for recognition abroad. It states the qualification level according to the [European Qualifications Framework \(EQF\)](#), enabling the qualification to be understood and compared across Europe. The EQF and ISCED conversion tables are used to determine the European qualification level.

For more information (available only in Czech):

Decree No. 39/2005 Coll., establishing minimum requirements for study programmes to attain qualifications for non-medical professions and the Qualification Standard for preparing General Nurse professionals (Ministry of Health Bulletin 9/2021).

[KS-General Nurse \(in Czech\)](#)

- a) A General Nurse may, without supervision and within the scope of their professional competency, maintain a patient's hygiene and infection control, document in medical records, assess the need and level of patient autonomy (including the use of evaluative and measurement techniques), gather patient history, collect biological samples, assess and treat skin integrity issues, and care for chronic wounds, including stoma care.
- b) Under a physician's instruction, and without supervision, a General Nurse may insert peripheral intravenous catheters, administer medications, and initiate and maintain inhalation and oxygen therapy.
- c) Under the supervision of a physician, a General Nurse may administer intravenous blood products.

For more information (available only in Czech):

Decree No. 391/2017 Coll., which amends Decree No. 55/2011 Coll., on activities of healthcare workers and other specialised professionals, as amended.

[391/2017 Coll.](#)



2nd pathway

Competency is achieved through at least three years of university study (in both full-time and part-time formats). The Bachelor's degree in General Nursing concludes with a state examination, including a thesis defence and passing final exams. Graduates earn the academic title Bachelor (BSc).

The diploma includes a "Diploma Supplement," which clarifies the qualification, especially for recognition abroad. It states the qualification level according to the [European Qualifications Framework \(EQF\)](#), facilitating comparability with other systems across Europe. The EQF and ISCED conversion tables are used to determine the European qualification level.

The scope of activities performed by General Nurses who complete the Bachelor's degree is identical to that for graduates of Higher Vocational Schools (see 1st pathway).

3. DEGREE

Post-qualification education, which is defined by current legislation as "lifelong learning," includes the following components:

a) Specialisation Study

- **1st pathway: Specialisation courses**
- **2nd pathway: Master's degree programme with specialised competence.** Only graduates with a Bachelor's degree in General Nursing are eligible for entry into the Master's programme.

b) Certified Courses

c) Seminars

d) Lectures

e) Self-study

There is a direct continuation for non-medical professions in the Master's study fields of General Nursing and Nutritional Therapy.

Upon completing a specialised course or earning a Master's degree (Mgr.), graduates obtain a specialised qualification with an official designation in the relevant specialty and are authorised to perform specialised activities. The respective specialisation is awarded upon completion of studies by decision of the Ministry of Health of the Czech Republic.

For more information (available only in Czech):

Specialised education programmes for non-physician healthcare professionals as per Government Regulation No. 31/2010 Coll.

[Specialisation Programmes](#)

The aim of specialised education in nursing, specifically post-qualification in General Nursing, is to gain specialised competence in a total of 14 areas, including Intensive Care, Perioperative Care, Paediatric Nursing, Paediatric Intensive Care, Internal Medicine Nursing, Surgical Nursing, Psychiatric Nursing, Geriatric Nursing, Oncology and Haemato-oncology Nursing, Wound Care, among others.



Social Care Professions

Social Care Worker

A Social Care Worker (specialising in caregiving and nursing activities) may perform the following:

a) **Direct Personal Care for individuals in outpatient or residential social service facilities**, which includes training in basic daily activities, assistance with personal hygiene and dressing, handling equipment, aids, and laundry, maintaining cleanliness and personal hygiene, supporting independence, promoting life skills, establishing basic social and interpersonal contacts, and meeting psychosocial needs.

Required Education:

The professional qualification for a Social Care Worker requires either basic or secondary education and completion of an accredited qualification course.

Completion of an accredited course is not required for those who have obtained healthcare qualifications as an attendant, certified social workers, or individuals with secondary education in a relevant field (see below).

b) **Basic Educational Activities (Non-Pedagogical) aimed at reinforcing and establishing basic hygiene and social habits**, fostering and developing work habits, manual skills, and work-related activities. It also includes organising leisure activities focused on personality development, interests, knowledge, and creative abilities through arts, music, and physical education, as well as ensuring recreational and cultural activities.

Required Education:

The qualification for a Social Care Worker in this area requires secondary education with a vocational certificate or secondary education with a final examination and completion of an accredited qualification course.

Completion of the course is not required for those who have obtained qualifications in occupational therapy, certified social workers, or individuals with secondary education in a relevant field (see below).

c) **Home Care Services** for individuals, which involves performing tasks related to direct contact with persons experiencing physical and psychological difficulties, comprehensive household management, providing social assistance, conducting social assessments under the guidance of a social worker, supporting the creation of social and interpersonal contacts, psychological activation, organising and coordinating care activities, and providing personal assistance.

Required Education:

The qualification for a Social Care Worker in this area requires basic education, secondary education, secondary education with a vocational certificate, secondary education with a final examination, or higher vocational education, and completion of an accredited qualification course.

Completion of the course is not required for those with healthcare qualifications as an attendant, certified social workers, or individuals with secondary education in a relevant field (see below).



Fields of Secondary Education that Qualify for a Social Care Worker Role:

Completion of a qualification course for Social Care Workers is not required for individuals with secondary education, vocational certificates, or final examinations in fields focused on charitable services, caregiving services, caregiving activities, pre-school and extra-curricular pedagogy, social legal activities, social educational activities, social work, social care, social caregiving, social services, educational activities, and humanitarian activities.

Qualification courses for Social Care Workers must be accredited by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs.

The qualification course has two parts:

- 1. Part:** Basic Qualification Course – 40 hours, standardised format, completed before employment as a Social Care Worker with a social service provider.
- 2. Part:** Specialised Qualification Course – 120 hours, divided into four modules according to the role of the Social Care Worker, completed only while employed by a registered social service provider.

For more information (available only in Czech):

Methodology for Training Social Care Workers: A Guide for Qualification Course Participants and Further Education of Social Care Workers. Available at: [Methodology for Social Care Workers Training](#)

Act No. 108/2006 Coll., Social Services Act. Available at: [Act No. 108/2006](#)

Decree No. 505/2006 Coll., implementing certain provisions of the Social Services Act. Available at: [Decree No. 505/2006](#)