

20 COMMON QUESTIONS FOR NURSING INTERVIEWS

1. How would you handle a patient who is having a difficult time during treatment?

Nurses need to use empathy to help understand a patient's situation. Interacting with and checking in on patients frequently can help them get through or at least better manage pain and difficulties they are feeling. This will help most patients feel like they are being understood and looked after properly.

Example answer: As a nurse assisting a patient, I will frequently check in with them by talking with them about how they are feeling and whether they have any worries or issues they'd like to talk about. If necessary, I will try to make any possible adjustments to their treatment, food, or sleeping options so that they can feel more comfortable in the hospital. I would reassure the patient that my number one priority is providing the best patient care I can. If the patient is too aggressive or refuses my help in any way, then I will immediately talk to the patient's doctor about any other options such as different medications or something else.

2. What do you do when family members take time you need to allocate to other patients?

As a nurse, it is important to schedule enough time to balance taking care of and following-up with all your patients and any family members who are with them at the hospital/clinic. Even if you have scheduled everything perfectly, some families will still try to take up too much of your time and you have to know how to handle this situation.

Example answer: In this case, as a nurse, I will try to explain thoroughly to a patient's family about how we've managed the patient's treatment so far, how we will treat them in the future, and also allocate at least a few minutes for any questions the family has. I will be sure to explain that we are taking care of the patient as best we can, but unfortunately as a nurse, we also have other patients to care for and families to talk to. We make sure to give each patient plenty of time and care according to the severity of their injuries or illnesses.

3. What should you do when a patient is angry and does not want to continue treatment?

Patience and tolerance are important qualities to demonstrate when you are dealing with an angry or difficult patient. At times, this can definitely help a patient calm down but there are also other options and people you can ask for help if the patient is too difficult to handle.

Example answer: First of all, I would try to remain calm and clearly tell the patient how we plan to treat them and why we think that will help them. Taking enough time to try and calm down the

patient is necessary, but if you believe the patient won't calm down or if they are getting too aggressive, then you can call for help. It is important to talk to the patient's doctor and a head nurse as soon as possible about this patient, depending on just how aggressive and angry the patient is acting.

4. How should you respond when patients ask you questions outside of your nursing expertise?

As a nurse, you may be asked many questions regarding the concerns of patients and their families that are outside of your area of expertise. You can refer them to the most appropriate counselors, doctors or clinics depending on the type of issue and severity of the problem a patient is facing. You know that as a nurse, you are not responsible for or skilled in every area of treatment that a patient may need, so you will refer them to the best person, hospital, or clinic that is right for them.

Example answer: When faced with questions about the symptoms of a patient's illnesses, diseases, or injuries, I would encourage him/her to go to the most appropriate clinic, hospital, or doctor I could find. This will ensure the patient receives the best and most suited treatment as soon as possible. I would explain to them that I wish I could help with their issue but I am not qualified. Referring them to the appropriate place will show that I still care about getting the patient the best treatment for them.

5. In your opinion, why is it important to work in a team with doctors, nurses and hospital staff?

Teamwork is a very necessary skill in the hospital environment to improve work efficiency, ensure all processes run smoothly, and that all patients are receiving the best treatment for them. Having a supportive and good team environment with other medical experts will help create a healthy work environment which will in turn, lead to better treatment for patients.

Example answer: When working in a hospital, the ability to communicate and work well with others is extremely important to ensure the safety of patients during their course of treatment. For example, when performing care for a patient with a history of Alzheimer's disease, it is important to consult beforehand with colleagues or doctors who know how best to treat that patient and manage their condition. You must respect the processes and procedures of the hospital and also the other working staff, as that will create a healthier environment for all patients and staff.

6. How do you resolve conflicts with colleagues regarding treatment for patients?

It is important to communicate as best you can and refrain from becoming angry. Listening to your colleague's concerns is very important before making any big decisions. There will always be a solution to these problems and staying calm will help you determine what's best

Example answer: Upon realizing there is a disagreement of how to treat or manage a patient, I will immediately contact the most relevant supervisor or doctor who can provide a second opinion or final say in the situation. Asking for help or advice from a more senior nurse/doctor will ensure that you will not get in trouble for disagreeing with or challenging your colleague.

7. Why did you choose nursing as a career and what are your duties at clinic or hospital?

When answering questions like these, you need to address your specific aspirations as to why you became a nurse and also explain your duties and responsibilities while working.

Example answer: I choose nursing as a career because I love helping people and making a difference in people's lives. As a nurse, I am always challenging myself to be current on medical trends and training so that I can provide the best care to my patients. Every day as a nurse, I learn something new from my colleagues and patients, which inspires me to explore deeper in the techniques and procedures I know or am learning about. My main duties are supporting doctors, taking care of patients before and after surgery, and overall ensuring that my patients are all receiving the best treatment possible for their circumstances.

8. How do you handle stress when working?

In order for continue working and performing well in such a high-stress job, you must have some methods or techniques to help you cope and manage your stress levels. You can describe in detail what works best for you.

Example answer: My first option to resolve stressful situations is to face the problem head-on. This will ensure the problem is dealt with as quickly as possible. One thing that helps me get through stressful situations is reminding myself that I am feeling stressed because I am doing my job, which is to care for patients as best I can. I feel I owe it to my patients to stay calm, push through the stress and focus on how I can help them. To handle my stress levels outside of work, I frequently exercise at my local gym and like going for walks with my dog.

9. How can you manage and handle a huge amount of work?

For this question, you can mention that you ensure you prepare for and complete any possible nursing work outside of your shifts to balance your workload. For example, you can say that before your shifts you plan everything you need to do on that day and also which tasks need to be prioritised.

Example answer: I would focus first on any tasks that are most important and complete these tasks accordingly. I would also ensure that outside of my shifts, I do any necessary preparation for my next nursing shift and plan how to handle my huge workload.

10. Why did you choose to apply for a nursing position in this hospital?

In this question, you should think about what is special or unique about this hospital. There must be something about this hospital that interested you when applying for the job. Possible examples include mentioning any awards the hospital has received or their expertise in a special treatment technique or technology that interests you. Also, if you, your friends or family have been treated at this hospital, then you can mention that they received exceptional care during their stay.

Example answer: I thoroughly researched this hospital and realized that it has received many awards for excellent patient care. I hope to be part of this workplace and community because it is my main goal as a nurse to provide the best care I can for patients. I believe that working at this hospital would teach me to become a better nurse and help me improve on anything I can do better. I also feel that the work environment would be very supportive and help me achieve my long-term nursing goals.

11. What are some difficulties for nurses in this current climate?

COVID-19 is currently the biggest difficulty to manage in the nursing discipline, but most nurses luckily do not have to deal directly with it. The most difficult thing about nursing generally is determining and administering the most appropriate treatments for patients. Not all patients are the same, so this makes the job as a nurse not so straightforward. Also, administering or providing the wrong kind of treatment could potentially make a patient's condition worse, and potentially open you or your hospital up to a class action lawsuit. Being a good nurse requires a lot of critical thinking and also consultation with other nurses and doctors. You almost always have to rely on help from others as a nurse.

Example answer: In my opinion, a nurse will be busy throughout their working day, not only fulfilling the role of nursing but also participating in other services to make the treatment process faster and more effective. Because being a nurse is directly related to the health and condition of a patient, a small mistake can potentially have enormous consequences for quality of life, length of recover and the career of the nurse themselves. Therefore, nurses have to fully understand all necessary procedures and processes, while also managing their own stress levels so they can perform their tasks and duties properly. Stress and fatigue are two other significant concerns for nurses. The last major concern for nurses is that regular exposure to sick patients can expose nurses to potentially contagious sicknesses. Nurses have to be around sickness every day and risk having sickness passed on to them.

12. What is the primary duty of a nurse?

Nursing is a job where you constantly have to multitask, including primarily caring for patients, and consulting with other healthcare workers. This is the most basic explanation of nursing, but there are a great number of tasks nurses need to do every day such as writing healthcare reports, administering medications (some nurses), or making treatment plans for patients.

Example answer: During the course of working and studying as a nurse, I learned the importance of multitasking as a nurse, and learned all about what duties and tasks nurses are required to complete every day. I now know how to do record keeping, skills to help patients and also how to cooperate and consult with other nurses and doctors. Nurses have many responsibilities but almost all of these are focused on the health and wellbeing of the nurse's patients. The care and treatment of patients is always the primary duty of a nurse.

13. In the event of an outbreak, what would you do?

The answer to this type of question is meant to demonstrate your ability to handle difficult situations and adapt your existing knowledge and skills accordingly. Outbreaks such as COVID-19 are difficult to manage in hospitals, but following relevant safety protocols, instructions and laws are the safest ways to prevent more people from becoming sick.

Example answer: As a nurse, I would need to detect as soon as possible if patients had any symptoms that would require them to be tested for a dangerous disease or virus, such as COVID-19. Ensuring my own safety and the safety of other patients and their families is of utmost priority. I would always ensure I'd be following the correct protocols and procedures when dealing with and making reports about patients who may have a deadly virus or have had any contact with someone who has a virus. Consulting my fellow colleagues including nurses and doctors is also critical to determine the next step in treatment or if we are even qualified to treat the patient. Throughout an outbreak, I would also ensure I'm following all safe hygiene practices such as washing my hands

frequently, sanitising my hands, and wearing a mask at all times while at or near my workplace. Following any laws surrounding the outbreak is also something I would have to comply with.

14. Have you ever had any difficulties working with other nurses or colleagues?

As a nurse, teamwork and interaction between with other staff in the workplace is vital to providing the best treatment and care for patients. It is important that you demonstrate or give examples of how you work well with others when answering this question. If you have had difficulties in the past, then tell the interviewer how you addressed and solved these problems.

Example answer: I am very confident in my ability to communicate and work in teams. I have rarely had difficulties with other doctors or nurses, but most issues I've faced I have always been able to solve by talking to that person and having a calm discussion with them. With any issues that couldn't be solved this way, I always asked a superior for advice or help to resolve the difficult situation.

15. What is the most rewarding thing about studying to be and being a nurse?

When answering this question, you should try to answer honestly about what you find most rewarding about this career path. Possible answers include talking about your desire to help others or make a positive difference in people's lives.

Example answer: My favourite thing about being a nurse is that I can spend every day helping people who need assistance. It makes me feel good about myself that I know I am making a positive difference in people's lives. Working with a supportive and friendly group of other nurses also makes this career the right choice for me. I love cooperating with others and working in teams, so building and strengthening these work relationships is very rewarding for my self-esteem and helps improve my work ethic.

16. What is the importance of keeping handle keeping patient records confidential? How will you keep these records confidential?

Not following the correct patient confidentiality procedures is a big problem in the nursing industry. As a nurse, following the correct procedures is incredibly important for the safety of patients and also your future as a nurse. These laws have been put in place to protect patients and these rules should be followed especially because your primary duty as a nurse is to care for patients.

Example answer: I would always ensure I'd be following the correct patient confidentiality procedures. I understand that every patient's privacy must be protected, as well as all their personal rights. Relevant medical information must only be shown to or shared with any persons who are authorised and required to view it. For example, talking to patient about their health and treatment will be performed in a private space where only the necessary doctor and a nurse can take notes. I

will also ensure that all patient records will be protected and secure in locked areas that only authorised people can access.

17. What are the most basic and necessary qualities that you think are important in your study and work as a nurse?

While all nurses need relevant qualifications to practice as a nurse, any good nurse will also possess a number of soft skills. Some examples of important soft skills include the ability to empathise, self-control, resolving conflicts, communicating clearly and having excellent listening skills.

Example answer: Nurses are directly responsible for a patient's health, so a degree is not enough to provide the best level of care for patients. A good nurse will have a number of skills that are necessary for providing adequate treatment for patients. Talking to patients, listening to them, and empathizing with them are very important skills to have as a nurse. Clearly communicating with patients, nurses and doctors is also critical. Lastly, the stressful nature of and big workload for many nurses means that nurses must be able to cope and handle the high stress levels associated with this job.

18. How do you practice self-care after your nursing shifts?

Being a nurse is a very physically and emotionally taxing career, so it is important to show the interviewer that you have techniques to cope with and deal with these stresses. That will show the interviewer that you have healthy outlets for your stress and can likely handle the job you are interviewing for. Some examples of healthy stress relieving activities include exercising at the gym, walking your dog, reading books, listening to music, meditating, or cooking new recipes.

Example answer: As a nurse, I know I will have to manage and deal with stressful situations that I will continue to think about even after my workday has ended. I manage any significant stresses by focusing on two of my favourite activities which help me recharge and clear my mind: walking my dog and reading fantasy novels. These two activities give me a much-needed break after any particularly stressful day as a nurse and helps me to feel recharged and ready for the next day.

19. Why are you the best person for this Nursing job?

When answering this kind of question, you should think about your best and most relevant skills that can be applied to the job you are interviewing for. Confidence, passion, enthusiasm, patience, and empathy are examples of skills and strengths you could talk about. After you have chosen what skill/s you will talk about, you can back this up by giving an example of a time when you demonstrated your strong ability with each of these skills.

Example answer: Because I have had placements at Griffith Gold Coast Hospital during my final year of nursing, I believe this greatly increased my knowledge of how to be a good nurse and also provided me with enough experience to be a suitable nurse and staff member at your hospital. I am sure I could quickly integrate into this working environment as well as follow all the hospital's processes and procedures.

20. How do you keep up with the latest medical developments and technology?

With this type of question, you should show that you are capable of quickly learning and understanding new medical equipment or developments in the medical industry. Telling the interviewer that you actively research and learn about these developments will show you are a passionate nurse who is committed to improving their knowledge and expertise. Understanding new medical developments and technology will help you become more confident in your own ability as a nurse and can possibly lead to you providing better treatment for your patients in the future.

Example answer: I know that this field is constantly evolving and at times it is difficult to keep up with every new development. Because I am passionate about my career as a nurse and also have a significant interest in the medical industry generally, I actively research any new and relevant medical developments and technology. By understanding new medical developments, I feel like I am fully updated and able to provide the newest and best treatments for my patients, or at least inform the hospital and doctors about anything new I think that could be used to treat patients better.