

Organisational and Clinical Challenges of Evolving Nursing Practice in Nephrology in Luxembourg: What Perspectives for Advanced Practice?

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Introduction: Chronic kidney disease affects more than 10% of the world's population and its prevalence continues to rise. In response to growing healthcare needs and physician shortages, several countries have developed advanced nursing practice roles. Luxembourg still lacks a regulatory framework recognising this function, and little is known about how such a development is perceived.

Methods: This exploratory multicentre qualitative study examined healthcare professionals' and institutional stakeholders' perceptions of the evolution towards an advanced practice nursing role in nephrology in Luxembourg. Seventeen semi-structured interviews were conducted across five professional profiles, in two hospitals and one national-level organisation. Data were analysed using inductive thematic analysis following Braun and Clarke's six phases.

Results: The added value of advanced nursing practice was recognised by most participants, although perceptions differed across professional profiles. Nephrologists highlighted issues of clinical responsibility, while service managers and care coordinators anticipated frustration and a risk of losing trained professionals. Directors' positions ranged from a wait-and-see approach to active anticipation, while the national representative identified the main obstacle as political rather than legal. Advanced practice activities were described as already being carried out without formal recognition. Participants also emphasised the need to enhance the current nursing role before introducing a new function.

Conclusion: An advanced practice role in nephrology responds to needs identified across stakeholder groups. The findings suggest that elements of advanced practice already exist in Luxembourg despite the absence of a national framework, highlighting the need for formal recognition that support the retention of trained professionals.

References

- 1) International Council of Nurses. Guidelines on Advanced Practice Nursing 2020. Geneva: ICN; 2020.
- 2) Braun V, Clarke V. Using thematic analysis in psychology. Qual Res Psychol. 2006;3(2):77–101. doi:10.1191/1478088706qp063oa
- 3) Loi du 27 juillet 2026 portant modification de la loi modifiée du 26 mars 1992 sur l'exercice et la revalorisation de certaines professions de santé. 2026.

Biosketch

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CURRENT AND PAST POSITIONS

Since September 2025: Registered Nurse, Peritoneal Dialysis Unit, Hôpitaux Robert Schuman, Luxembourg.

2021–2025: Registered Nurse, Nephrology and Internal Medicine Unit, Hôpitaux Robert Schuman, Luxembourg.

2018–2021: Registered Nurse, Cardiology and Pulmonology Unit, Hôpitaux Robert Schuman, Luxembourg.

2017–2018: Registered Nurse, Endocrinology, Diabetology, Dermatology and Vascular Surgery Unit, Hôpitaux Robert Schuman, Luxembourg.

2011–2017: Registered Nurse, Orthopaedic Surgery Unit, VIVALIA – Clinique Sud Luxembourg, Arlon, Belgium.

EDUCATION

2026: Master of Science in Nursing, Advanced Practice track, University of Liège, Belgium.

2011: State Diploma in Nursing (Diplôme d'État Infirmier), IFSI Briey, France.

OTHER RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Additional training in clinical ethics, Hôpitaux Robert Schuman, 2026.

Introduction to clinical ultrasound, 2026.

Health promotion, 2026.

Team performance management, Hôpitaux Robert Schuman, 2025.

Wound care, 2017.