



New Grad RN Transition to Practice Program Info Session

Welcome!
We will get started
at 12:00 pm PST

January 14, 2026



Jessica Appleget

Clinical Nurse Specialist & Transition to Practice
Program Coordinator | Staff Development & Education

Morgan Martin & Alexis Vegas

Talent Sourcing Specialists | Human Resources

Agenda

- Introduction to Rady Children's Health - San Diego
- Why Team Rady?
- Overview of the Transition to Practice Program
- Application process
- Tips to stand out
- Answering your questions!
- Open Q&A

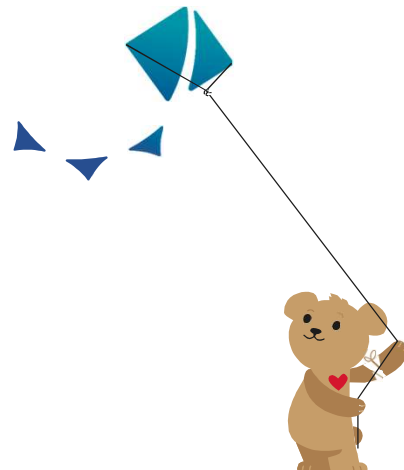


3

Rady Children's

Growing Up San Diego

Introduction to
Rady Children's Health
San Diego



Rady Children's

Humble Beginnings

- Children's Memorial Hospital opened its doors to the first 12 patients on August 19, 1954
- Originally opened for polio care
- First hospital dedicated to children in San Diego - and remains as such to this day
- Continuously dedicated to family-centered care



*"We created an atmosphere that was entirely child-oriented. And, as such, everyone was expected to **treat the patients like a child.**"*

Richard L. Johnson, Executive Director and CEO, 1954-1980

5

Rady Children's

Rady Children's Health Today

In the 70+ years since we've opened, Rady Children's Health San Diego has grown from a single 59-bed facility into a world-class healthcare network that attracts patients from around the globe for its innovation and research.

- Only hospital in the San Diego area dedicated exclusively to pediatric health care
- Level 1 trauma center
- 505 beds (and soon to be more!)
- Children aged 0-18, and even beyond



6

Rady Children's



7

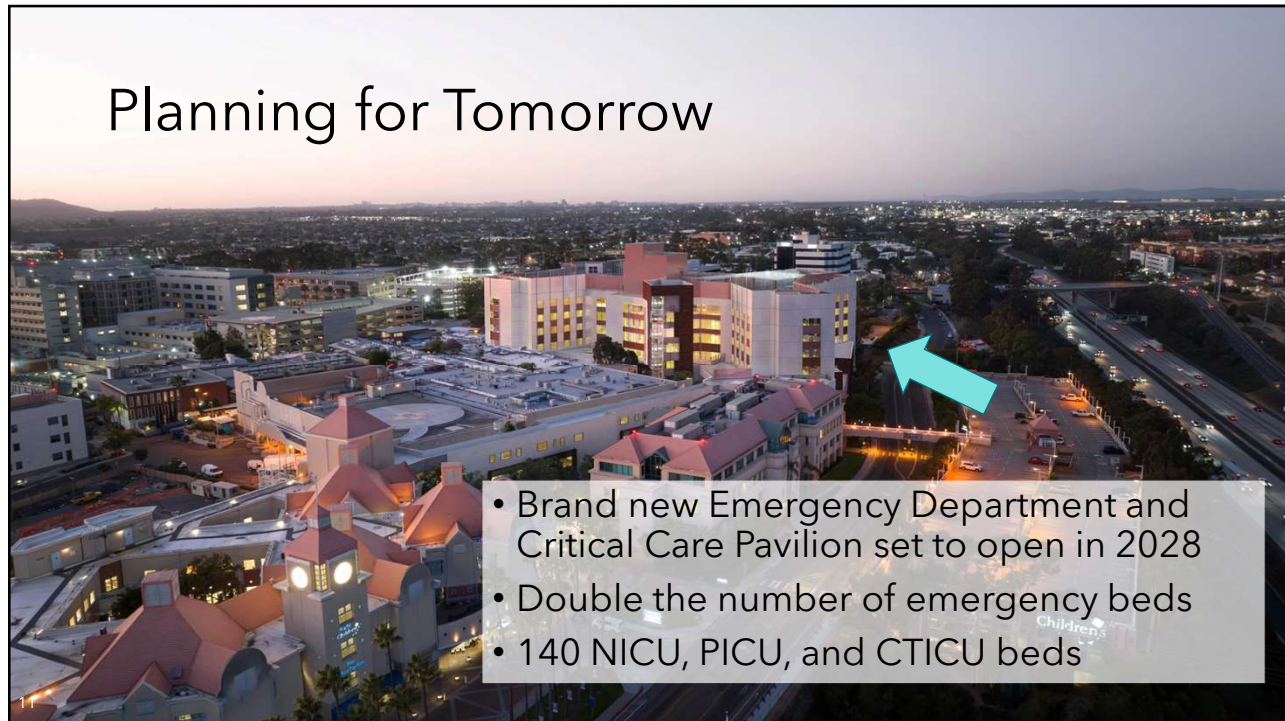
Rady Children's



8

Rady Children's

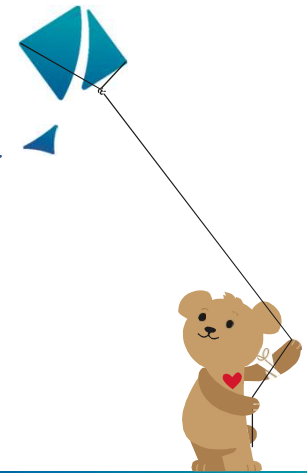
Planning for Tomorrow



**Renderings of the new
Emergency Department
and Critical Care Pavilion**



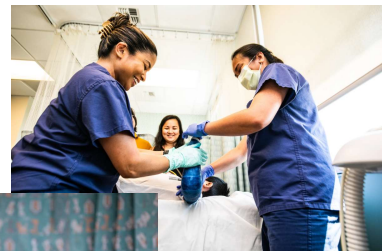
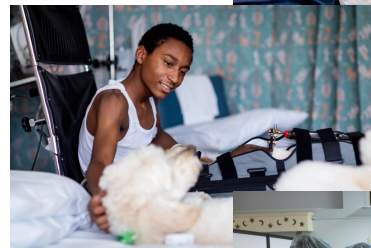
Why Rady Children's Health San Diego?



Rady Children's

Our Mission (For Now)

To restore, sustain and enhance the health and developmental potential of children through excellence in care, education, research and advocacy.



It's all about the kids.

Team Rady



16

Rady Children's

Awards and Recognition



Top 10 in the Nation!
3rd year in a row



Tied #1 in the Pacific
Tied #1 in California



18

Rady Children's

Compensation

**\$62.12/hour
for Summer 2026 cohort**

Increases annually for all new grads!

- Competitive wages
- Shift differentials for evenings, nights, weekends
- On call pay



19

Rady Children's

Benefits and Wellness

- Medical, dental, vision insurance
- Supplemental insurance
- 100% employer paid life insurance
- 403(b) retirement plan with 3% employer match
- Generous vacation and sick time
- Onsite gyms, 1:1 personal training, and group fitness classes
- **FREE ONSITE PARKING**



*Emotional, Environmental, Financial, Intellectual,
Occupational, Physical, Social, Spiritual*



20

Rady Children's

Living in America's Finest City



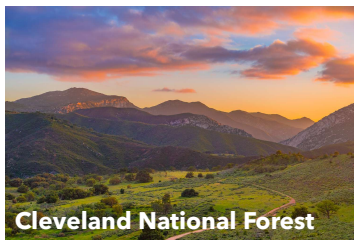
La Jolla Cove



Balboa Park



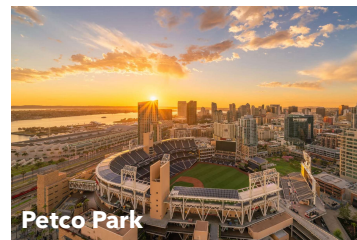
Downtown from Coronado



Cleveland National Forest



San Diego Zoo



Petco Park

21

Rady Children's

New Grad RN Transition to Practice Program



Rady Children's

Overview of the Transition to Practice Program



- 1 Year Residency Program
 - Studies have shown up to 30% of nurses leave the nursing profession within their first year!
- Designed to support the newly licensed RN through the transition to practice
 - Evidence supports transition to practice programs lead to more confident and competent nurses
- Goal of the program is to develop New Grads into safe and competent pediatric RNs
 - Graduate to a Clinical Nurse II at program completion

23

Rady Children's

Program Structure



Clinical Shifts

- Orientation for first 4 months
- Preceptor overseeing your work



Residency Classes

- With all other new grads in your cohorts across all units
- 2 weeks of "bootcamp"
- Residency class once a month
- Lectures, skills, simulation, online learning, case studies, debriefing and more!



Unit-Based Education Days (UBEDs)

- With all other new grads/new hires in your department
- Lectures, skills, simulation, online learning, case studies, debriefing, mock events and more!

24

Rady Children's

Professional Development Opportunities

Shared
Leadership
Councils

Quality
Improvement
Projects

Certification
Courses

Preceptor
Workshops

Nelson Funds

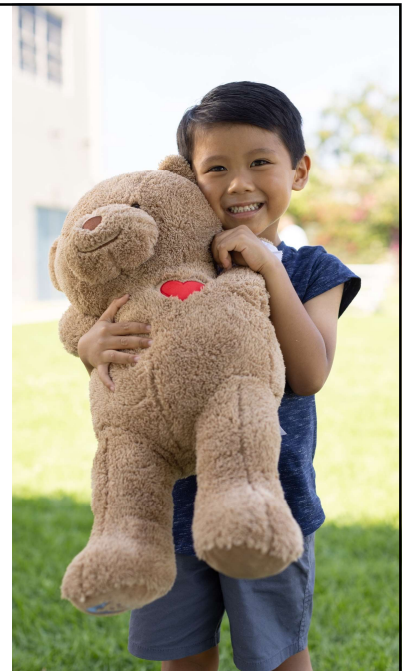
Tuition
Reimbursement

25

Rady Children's

Career Progression

- Advance to CN II
 - All new grads progress to Clinical Nurse II after 1 year
- Career pathing outside of clinical ladder
 - Preceptor
 - Charge Nurse
 - Unit-Based Leadership Council
 - House-wide Shared Leadership Council
 - Quality Improvement Committees
- Specialty certifications and trainings
 - BLS
 - PALS
 - NRP
 - ACLS
 - CCRN
 - CEN
 - CPHON
 - CNS-NIC
 - *And many more!*



26

Rady Children's

Cohorts and Application Submission

2 cohorts annually

- Spring 2026 - **March 2, 2026**
- Summer 2026 - **August 3, 2026**

Applications open 5-6 months prior to the cohort start

- Applications for the Summer cohort open **February 9-13**

27

Rady Children's

Participating Units

Check the job posting for which units are participating!

- Units typically include inpatient acute care, critical care, and emergency department.

Acute Care	Critical Care
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medical • Surgical • Inpatient Hematology/Oncology • Medical Behavioral Unit (MBU) • Child & Adolescent Psych Services (CAPS) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neonatal ICU (NICU) • Cardio-Thoracic ICU (CTICU) • Pediatric ICU (PICU)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency Care Center 	

- Most new grads will work at the Main Campus in San Diego, with some satellite NICU participation.
- New grads can expect to work days, nights, weekends and rotating shifts.
- Guaranteed employment in unit following successful program completion.

28

Rady Children's

New Grad RN Application Process



Rady Children's

Refer to our New Grad Residency page!



jobs.rchsd.org/residency-programs



RN New Graduate Transition to Practice Program FAQs

- What are the requirements of the RN New Graduate Transition to Practice Program? >
- Which units typically hire new grads? >
- What do I need to include with my application? >
- What can I expect after I submit my application? >
- How can I check the status of my application? >
- Do you hire new grad RNs outside of the Transition to Practice Program? >
- Do I need to be a California resident to apply? >

Who can apply?



Graduates of an accredited ADN, BSN, or MSN program *by program start date*

Can apply with a future graduation date!

If already graduated, must be within 18 months of cohort start

If graduating with an ADN, applicants must be enrolled in a BSN program



Current California RN license *by program start date*



Current BLS certification from the American Heart Association *by program start date*



Less than 12 months RN work experience *by program start date*

If you have more than 12 months of RN experience, check out our Registered Nurse openings!

31

Who should apply?

Nurses who want to be a part of a team dedicated to the kids...
and each other.



32

Application Process Overview

- If you are interested in the Summer 2026 cohort, create a login on our Careers page and sign up for job alerts!
 - Refer to our FAQ page for the most updated information and dates
- Required documents
 - Resume, with GPA (1-2 pages)
 - Cover letter (1 page)
 - 1 letter of recommendation (1 page)



Incomplete applications are unable to be considered.

33

Rady Children's

Resume (1-2 pages)

- List **all** clinical rotations completed throughout your nursing program. Include specialty area/unit, site location, and total number of hours completed for each rotation.
- Specify your nursing program culminating clinical experience, e.g., **practicum, preceptorship, capstone, transitions course, student externship**. Include the specialty area/unit, site location, and total number of hours completed.
- Please ensure you've listed your **GPA, academic achievements, evidence-based practice projects, publications, work, volunteer, and leadership experience** that you'd like to showcase.

34

Rady Children's

Examples of how to display clinical rotations

Semester	Rotation	Location	Unit	Hours
Summer 2024	Women's Health	Sharp Mary Birch	NICU, post-partum, L&D	96
Summer & Fall 2024	Community Health	Monarch School	2 nd grade and kindergarten	192
Fall 2024	Nurse Leadership Preceptorship	Rady Children's	Infection Control	144
Spring 2025	Advanced Nurse Generalist Preceptorship	Rady Children's	Medical	192

Pediatrics | Rady Children's Hospital, San Diego | 90 hours
 Medical (2 Rose, 4 East), Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, Pediatric Intensive Care Unit

January 2024 – May 2024

35

Rady Children's

Cover letter (1 page)

This is your opportunity to introduce yourself to us and make your "elevator pitch" for why you're the best candidate for this role. We want you to brag about yourself - **you've earned it!**

- List **top 2 units** of interest
 - If you're open to all units, great! Please include that after you've listed your top 2 choices.
- Clearly articulate your **WHY**
 - Why pediatrics?
 - Why the specialties of interest?
 - Why Rady Children's?
 - Why should we choose you?

36

Rady Children's

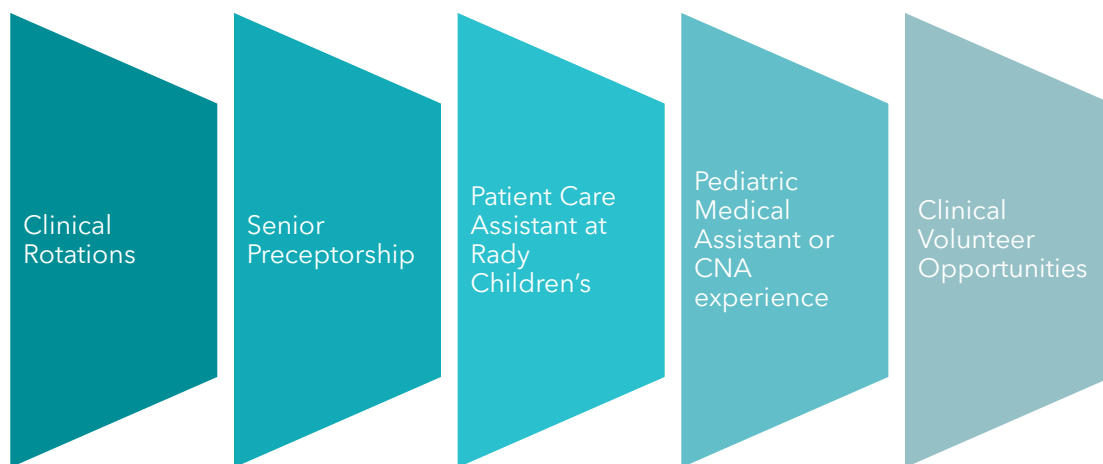
Recommendation Letter (1 page)

- Include 1 letter from a clinical instructor, preceptor, or supervisor who can speak to your abilities as a new graduate nurse and potential for success working with the pediatric and/or neonatal population.
- This should **not** be done by a family member, friend or anyone outside of a clinical, medical or healthcare setting.

37

Rady Children's

Current nursing students - what can I do now?



38

Rady Children's

Timeline



Application Review

5 weeks from application close date



Interviews

2-3 months from application close date



Offer Decisions

3-4 months from application close date



New Hire Onboarding

1-2 months prior to cohort start date

Must be in San Diego at least 1-2 weeks before start date



Please note, these review periods are subject to change based on unit and organizational needs

39

Rady Children's

Your questions, answered!

Take a look at our commonly asked questions and ones submitted by you!



Rady Children's

FAQs - New Additions

Application & Resume

- **NEW** How should I display my graduation date? What if I haven't graduated yet?
 - Please include the Month and Year of your graduation or anticipated graduation date, since this is used to determine program eligibility.

Culminating Clinical Experience

- **NEW** How should I list my preceptorship on my resume?
 - Be sure to clearly label it as Preceptorship and include the unit/specialty and the hospital/facility where it was completed.

41

Rady Children's

FAQs - New Additions

Recommendation Letters

- **NEW** Where do I upload the recommendation letter in my application?
 - Upload your recommendation letter in the "Cover Letter" section. Click "Attachments" and select "Recommendation Letter."

42

Rady Children's

FAQs

Application & Resume

- What makes a candidate stand out?
 - Pediatric experience in desired specialty, a well-organized resume and application, and familiarity with Rady Children's
- How do I stand out if I didn't have a preceptorship/rotation at Rady Children's?
 - Highlight the pediatric and other relevant experience you do have - facility, # of hours, patient acuity, cover letter, relevant work and volunteer experience, quality improvement projects, externship, GPA
- Do you expect a summary section on a resume?
 - No. We know you're applying because your objective is to be a new grad 😊

43

Rady Children's 

FAQs

Application & Resume

- Would a nurse externship strengthen my resume?
 - Yes! Any clinical experience, relevant projects, and publications are helpful to note on your application.
- What opportunities are there to volunteer at Rady Children's?
 - Check out the [Rady Children's Foundation](#) website for more information about how to volunteer.
- Do I need to submit a transcript with my application?
 - No, just the resume, cover letter, and recommendation letter. Please see previous slides for more detailed information.

44

Rady Children's 

FAQs

Application & Resume

- Is preference given to local candidates?
 - We consider all applicants equally, regardless of location.
- I've held a variety of roles before becoming an RN. Should I include this in my resume?
 - Typically, yes! We like to see what other roles you've held that have transferable experience to a nursing role.
- How should internals apply?
 - You may use either the internal job posting or external job posting, but be sure to note that you are a current Rady employee!

45

Rady Children's 

FAQs

Application & Resume

- Do you use AI for application review?
 - No! We know how much time and effort it takes to apply, so each application is evaluated by a real person.
- How should I note if some of my clinicals were simulations?
 - You may note "Lab Simulation" on your rotation instead of the hospital/site name.
- Do you value experience with children outside of the clinical setting?
 - Yes! Please include relevant pediatric experience in your work and volunteer sections.

46

Rady Children's 

FAQs

Application & Resume

- Is GPA required?
 - **YES.** This is a change from previous applications. Please include overall GPA on your resume.
- **NEW** How should I display my graduation date? What if I haven't graduated yet?
 - Please include the Month and Year of your graduation or anticipated graduation, since this is used to determine program eligibility.

47

Rady Children's

FAQs

Culminating Clinical Experience

- My preceptorship won't be assigned by the time I apply - what should I do?
 - Include a section for your future preceptorship on your resume and anticipated number of hours to be completed, and you can email us at NewGradRN@rchsd.org to update this information upon placement.
 - **Please note, we cannot update any other application documents or application information (i.e. licenses or certifications).**
- I won't have completed my preceptorship by the time I apply - is this ok?
 - Yes! Please be sure to list the anticipated number of hours you will complete by end of your preceptorship.

48

Rady Children's

FAQs

Culminating Clinical Experience

- **NEW** How should I list my preceptorship on my resume?
 - Be sure to clearly label it as Preceptorship and include the unit/specialty and the hospital/facility where it was completed.
- How should I list my culminating clinical experience if my program doesn't have a traditional senior preceptorship?
 - In lieu of a section for preceptorship, please include a few sentences about your program structure and any comparable experiences or rotations you'd like to highlight. Also be sure to list all rotations!

FAQs

Cover Letters

- What are the best ways to convey our story, passion, and belief in Rady Children's culture and mission in a cover letter?
 - This is your opportunity to discuss what can't be highlighted in your resume. Did you learn leadership skills in your preceptorship? Was there a time you had to do conflict-resolution while shadowing a charge nurse? Also, why Rady Children's? Why do you want to apply with us?
- How do I list my top 2 unit preferences?
 - Please include both unit preferences in your cover letter. You may bold or highlight these preferences if you wish.

FAQs

Recommendation Letters

- Do I submit a recommendation letter with my application, or is this uploaded later?
 - You will upload your recommendation letter with your application. Please reach out to your reference now to ensure you give them enough time to write the letter before the application opens in February!
- **NEW** Where do I upload it in my application?
 - Upload your recommendation letter in the "Cover Letter" section. Click "Attachments" and select "Recommendation Letter."

51

Rady Children's 

FAQs

Recommendation Letters

- Is it advantageous to upload more than 1 recommendation?
 - Most applicants upload one letter, but you're welcome to add additional if you feel they add different perspectives to your experience.

52

Rady Children's 

FAQs

Program Structure & Support

- How are new grads supported at Rady Children's?
 - Dedicated preceptors and mentors
 - Didactic Learning and Simulation
 - Peer Cohorts and Debriefing
 - Competency Validation & Goal Setting
 - Professional Development & Career Coaching
- How is the new grad program structured (orientation, preceptors, educational opportunities)?
 - Orientation: 18-22 weeks, depending on the unit
 - Preceptors: Dedicated preceptors throughout Orientation
 - Educational Opportunities: Didactic sessions every 2-3 weeks for first 4 months. Every 2 months Month 6-12
- What units will be participating?
 - We expect all of our typical units to participate, but check the job posting for specifics.

FAQs

Eligibility & Requirements

- ADN vs. BSN vs. MSN
 - All nursing degree types are accepted and evaluated as equals. Some programs may contain elements that strengthen the application (EBP projects, rotations at Rady Children's, etc.) but there is no preference given to one degree type over the others.
- If I'm graduating with an ADN, do I have to enroll in a BSN/MSN program?
 - Yes, as part of the program requirements, ADN grads should be enrolled in a BSN/MSN program by the time of hire.
- What licenses and certifications are required for the position?
 - Just RN license and BLS by program start date. Additional certs like PALS and NRP are nice to have but never a deciding factor in whether an application moves forward.

FAQs

Eligibility & Requirements

- What is the maximum amount of RN experience you can have as a new grad?
 - Up to 12 months by program start date. More experienced nurses may apply for our regular Registered Nurse positions.
- How long ago can you have graduated from your nursing program?
 - Up to 18 months from cohort start date. We want your education and learned skills to be current enough to support your success in the program.
 - For the Summer 2026 cohort, we are accepting new grad applicants from February 2025 to June 2026.

55

Rady Children's 

FAQs

Eligibility & Requirements

- Should we still apply for specialties without a preceptorship/externship in that unit?
 - Due to the number of applications received and competitive nature of the program, we discourage applying for specialties that you don't have significant experience in.
- Is there a requirement for number of hours completed in nursing school?
 - No, we recognize that every school has a different program structure, so there is no specific requirement. However, we do want to see the number of hours listed for each rotation.

56

Rady Children's 

FAQs

Eligibility & Requirements

- Can a second degree or accelerated nursing program apply?
 - Yes! As long as your program is accredited, you are welcome to apply.
- I'm not graduating until 2027 - when should I apply?
 - Keep an eye out on our Residency Program page for the most up to date information. As a rule of thumb, we typically post applications 5-6 months prior to cohort start date.

57

Rady Children's 

FAQs

Timeline & Cohorts

- When is the application period?
 - Opens the morning of Monday, February 9
 - Closes on Friday, February 13 at 11:59 pm (PT)
- What is the cohort start date?
 - Monday, August 3, 2026

58

Rady Children's 

FAQs

Timeline & Cohorts

- How many resident positions are available?
 - Typically 30-40 per cohort. Some higher acuity units will only take 2-3 per cohort, other units may take 7-8.
- How many applications do you typically receive?
 - Around 1000.

Hiring & Selection

- How are interviews conducted?
 - It depends on the unit. Oftentimes there are 1-2 interviews – an initial introductory call/interview and a final interview. Most units do panel interviews with multiple hiring leaders interviewing.
 - If you are not local, Zoom options are offered.

59

Rady Children's 

FAQs

Career Growth

- What growth or career advancement opportunities are available to new grads after residency?
 - After your year-long residency, you will move up the clinical ladder to Clinical Nurse II. We have multiple opportunities for growth, including CN III, committee work, advanced certifications, evidence-based practice programs, and more!
- How does Rady Children's support nurses who want to specialize, pursue certifications, or move into leadership roles?
 - We offer education benefits, certification reimbursement, unit-based funds, and opportunities hosted within our Education department for advanced certifications. Many in our nursing leadership team have been promoted from CN II/III into leadership!

60

Rady Children's 

FAQs

Compensation

- How is compensation determined for new grads?
 - It's based on our collective bargaining agreement (CBA) with our union.
 - Some RN positions have different rates of pay, depending on the role and unit; however, all new grads are compensated at the same rate.

61

Rady Children's 

FAQs

Registered Nurse / Clinical Nurse II Openings

- If I'm not selected for the residency, do certain units (e.g. NICU) require specialty experience or is a year of general RN experience sufficient?
 - We typically look for similar experience to the specialty being hired. However, we do offer "New To" programs, such as New to NICU, periodically!
- I have <1 of RN experience but will have graduated more than 18 months from the cohort start date. What other options do I have?
 - We recommend applying to other openings, such as our Bernardy Center or clinic roles that don't require 1 year of RN experience.

62

Rady Children's 

For additional program details and FAQs, please visit our website

Website: www.rchsd.org/careers and select Residency Programs



Rady Children's

Thank you!

NewGradRN@rchsd.org

A Kind Leader and Curious Mind

Kendall is Team Rady.

"Everyone at **Rady Children's** really cares and wants to continue to push the boundaries of what we do because it is what our community and the kids deserve."

Kendall began working at Rady Children's in 2015 and has been a strong supporter of our mission since day one. Now as the Manager, RPT Analytics and Clinical Operations, he is constantly looking to make processes better for his team, and ultimately support leadership and the patients.

#IAmTeamRady