

PRESS RELEASE

State of Vaud

Healthcare professions

The first five specialised nurse practitioners have received their diploma

Three years after Article 124a of the Vaud Public Health Act was passed, which paves the way for this hitherto unknown profession in Switzerland, the first specialised nurse practitioners have received their diploma from the University of Lausanne. This new healthcare profile was created thanks to the political impulse of the Department of Health and Social Affairs. It is intended to improve the healthcare offer, especially in the field of communal health and outpatient care.

On October 6, five specialised clinical nurses (IPS) graduated with a Masters degree from the University of Lausanne, where they received unprecedented two-year training and now have thorough clinical experience. The skills acquired in this course will enable them to prescribe and interpret diagnoses, develop medical procedures and prescribe medication in partnership with a partner physician and in compliance with the legal framework.

A relevant response to current and future health needs

IPS emerged in the mid-Sixties in North America, essentially in response to the rise of chronic diseases. It will help to better meet the population's health needs. The Swiss health care system is experiencing serious organisational tensions due to the ageing of the population, the increase of chronic diseases and related costs. IPS can help to improve the population's access and the continuity of follow-up in chronic disease situations.

The impact of organisational models including IPS has been scientifically studied and proven to be equivalent or slightly superior to traditional models (access to care, quality of life, length of stay, symptoms, cost, etc.). In the canton of Vaud, the IPS profile is

the missing link in a system that is under pressure and increasingly oriented toward community health and outpatient care.

Solid training

IPS graduates hold a scientific Masters in specialised nursing with 120 ECTS credits. The relevant modules are taught at Lausanne University (UNIL), at the Institute of Healthcare Training and Research within the Faculty of Biology and Medicine. In addition to the courses at the faculty, students complete a seven-month internship. There are four possible pathways: mental health, adult care, pediatric care, and primary care.

All IPS graduates of this first promotion have been hired by the Lausanne University Hospital (CHUV) and are already working. After admitting them to the practical training course, CHUV is looking forward to being able to rely on their skills in the fields of oncology, geriatrics, memory centre, pediatric diabetes and adult emergencies. The skills of IPS graduates will mainly be used in the outpatient department and with patients suffering from chronic diseases.

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