

What is a nurse practitioner?

A nurse practitioner (NP) is a registered nurse with advanced university education who provides personalized, quality health care to patients. Ontario nurse practitioners provide a full range of health care services to individuals, families and communities in a variety of settings including hospitals and community-based clinics in cities and smaller towns in Ontario. We work in partnership with physicians, nurses and other health care professionals such as social workers, midwives, mental health professionals and pharmacists to keep you, your family and your community well.

What does a nurse practitioner do?

A nurse practitioner provides care to patients of all ages with a focus on preventing disease, promoting good health and curing illness. We are part of your health care team. We play an important role in helping you to maintain a healthy, active lifestyle, and to understand and/or treat your illness. We also work with your community to promote good health and prevent disease. As a member of your health care team, we offer a variety of health care services including the ability to:

- diagnose and treat illness and/or injuries,
- perform physical check-ups,
- order and interpret diagnostic tests,
- write prescriptions,
- provide counselling and education,
- provide supportive care through illness,
- provide treatments and/or procedures, and
- make referrals to family physicians, specialists and other health professionals.



We have a unique, holistic approach to care that addresses the physical, emotional, mental and social aspects of your health and illness. We spend time with you to listen to your concerns. We work with doctors and other health care professionals to deliver high-quality services and provide preventative health care services. Nurse practitioners influence policies on health care. For example, when a new vaccine becomes available, we promote public access to it. We also conduct health research studies.

Do all nurse practitioners offer the same service?

There are four NP specialties in Ontario:

- **Primary Health Care.** We work in community settings and manage most common illnesses, and provide preventative care and education for healthy living.
- **Adult and Paediatric.** We work as part of a health care team in hospitals and home health care agencies, where we manage complex patient conditions.
- **Anaesthesia.** This role will be introduced into Ontario's health care system in the future.

Where do nurse practitioners work?

We work in both rural and urban areas, in a variety of settings such as:

- community health centres and family health teams,
- clinics and family practices,
- hospitals,
- long- and short-term rehabilitation facilities,
- workplaces,
- schools and your community,
- long-term care homes, and
- home health care agencies.



Find out more about nurse practitioners!

Visit the Nurse Practitioners' Association of Ontario at www.npao.org. You can search the website for a Nurse Practitioner - Primary Health Care in your community by clicking 'Find an NP in Ontario' at the bottom left of the home page. To learn more about the NP role from the patient, nursing leadership and NP perspective, view our 11 minute video at www.npao.org/video.aspx

Your Ontario Nurse Practitioner



**An important member
of your family's
health care team**



For more information about
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Visit our website www.npao.org
View a video on the NP role under
"NP Role Video"

NPAO is an Interest Group of the
Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario



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