

# Facts about Acute Care Nurse Practitioners

The Acute Care Nurse Practitioner (ACNP) works most often with patients and their families who are admitted to the hospital for an illness or visiting an outpatient clinic. ACNPs are members of teams of health care providers in specialty areas such as dialysis, orthopedics, neonatal intensive care, critical care or oncology.

You will meet us if we work in a partnership with the specialty physician(s) you are seeing. As Acute Care Nurse Practitioners, we do physical examinations and special treatments that are more commonly done by the doctor. While you are in the hospital, we order lab tests, x-rays, treatments and drugs. We explain health conditions and responses to treatment, and provide guidance to help you restore and maintain health.

Our goal as Acute Care Nurse Practitioners is to support you, as a patient, and your family through an illness where specialized investigation or treatment is required. We do this by helping you progress smoothly from admission to discharge, and by ensuring connections to community resources.

For more information, please see the Nurse Practitioners' Association of Ontario website at [www.npao.org](http://www.npao.org) or call **416-593-9779**.



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# Facts about Primary Health Care Nurse Practitioners

Primary Health Care Nurse Practitioners (PHCNP) work in a wide variety of community settings, long-term-care facilities and hospitals. While most PHCNPs work in community health centres and family practice settings, we also practice in hospital outpatient programs, emergency departments, public health units, college and university health centres, and health and social service organizations.

For many individuals and families, we are the main provider of your health care services. By working as part of a team, we make sure that you get the best possible health care from the right provider.

A visit to a PHCNP can include an annual physical, a routine prenatal check up or a well baby exam, as well as monitoring and treatment of chronic illnesses such as diabetes, asthma and high blood pressure. We can update your immunizations and order tests such as x-rays, ultrasounds, PAP tests and mammograms. We can write a prescription for medications, treat minor problems such as ear infections, and stitch up wounds.

Our goal is to prevent illness and/or treat your illness. By providing you with counselling and education, we also promote healthy living.

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