NPAO.ORG

What is an NP?

Nurse Practitioners (NPs), also known as Registered Nurses in the Extended Class, begin their nursing career as Registered Nurses and become NPs with an advanced graduate education degree (i.e. Masters degree) as well as additional nursing experience and exam requirements. They work independently but are most often found working as key members with an integrated health care team. Nurse Practitioners have the competence to provide comprehensive health assessment, to diagnose health/ illness conditions, and to treat and manage acute and chronic illness within a holistic model of care.

At a time when there is a shortage of primary care providers, Nurse Practitioners present an opportunity for Government to close the many gaps in our health care system.

As a Member Of Your Health Care Team NPs Can:

- Diagnose Conditions
- Perform Comprehensive Assessments
- Order Tests
- Prescribe Medications
- Provide Specialist Referrals
- Develop Treatment Plans
- Provide for Most of Your Health Care Needs

We use the term 'nurses' to describe all nursing categories, when in reality Ontario has three categories of regulated nurses with different capabilities including Nurse Practitioners (NPs), Registered Nurses (RNs) and Registered Practical Nurses (RPNs)

Each nursing category contributes high value to our daily health care needs and work in a variety of clinical settings. The primary differences between the nursing categories are the level of education and the regulated scope of practice.

Nurse Practitioners Work In:

- Hospitals
- Nurse Practitioners Led Clinics
- Community Health Centres
- Family Health Teams
- Long Term Care
- Correction Facilities
- Mental Health & Addiction Centres
- Virtual Care
- Walk-in Clinics
- Independent Clinics

NP Areas of Speciality

NP-Primary

NP-Adult

NP-Paediatrics

More & more, the health care system is recognizing the unique promise that NPs present to the quality of care in Ontario,

Nurse Practitioner Outcomes

- Improved Health Care Access
- Effective Patient Outcomes
- Decreased ER Visits
- Reduced Hospital Re-admissions
- High Client Satisfaction
- Cost Effective
- Improved Interprofessional Collaboration
- Reduce Wait Times
- Alleviate Pressures on Health Care System

Quick Facts:

- There are 27 Nurse Practitioner-Led Clinics in Ontario serving over 100.000 clients
- NPs are part of 296 interprofessional Primary Care Teams helping over 4,000,000 clients
- 5,156 NPs (as of 2024) serving 13.6 million Ontarians across health care systems
- NPs have 8 plus years of academic and clinical preparation
- NPs have been the fastest growing nursing category across Canada every year since 2015
- Between 2015-2019, NPs working in mental health & addications grew 65% in Canada
- In Ontario, NP employment in the Long Term Care sector grew 131% between 2013-2018

Use the QR code to learn more

Nurse Practitioners represent the future of effective and efficient health care and are ideally positioned to enable the transformation of health care in Ontario. They are the perfect combination of nursing care and compassion with the additional capabilities to provide comprehensive assessment and treatments!

NURSE PRACTITIONERS' ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO

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About NPAO

The Nurse Practitioners' Association of Ontario (NPAO) is a not-for-profit organization and is widely respected and recognized as the professional voice of over 5,000 Nurse Practitioners in Ontario, including Nurse Practitioner-Led Clinics (NPLCs). Our goal is to ensure NPs are a key part of the health care system so they can deliver upon the promise of compassionate, patient-centered care

Advocacy Initiatives:

Use the QR code to learn more

- Enrollment & Data Capture
- Professional Liability Protection
- New Funding Models
- Long Term Care
- Medical Assitance in Dying
- COVID-19 Compensation Inequity

Nurse Practitioners. Solutions for a Stronger & Healthier Ontario

NPLCA
A corporate member of NPAO

History

The Nurse Practitioners' Association of Ontario (NPAO) was founded in 1973 by a group of Nurse Practitioner (NP) graduates from the two newly established NP education programs in Ontario at that time: McMaster University and the University of Toronto. NPAO was founded to represent Nurse Practitioners primarily functioning in primary care in Ontario.

This group of pioneers worked hard at raising the visibility of the role of the NP by promoting the role through media interviews. They also lobbied elected officials and the leaders of other disciplines to create an awareness of the real contribution that nursing could make in the health care system. NPs even influenced nursing leaders who were still unfamiliar with the potential for this role.
In 1998 it changed its mandate to include NPs in all levels of health care: primary, secondary and tertiary care.

MISSION

NPAO is Exclusively Dedicated to the Emprowerment & Integration of NPs Across Ontario
NPs Speaking For NPs

VALUES

Equity, Diversity & Inclusion
Leadership
Integrity
Innovation & Collaboration

VISION

Exceptional Health Care For All

NPAO Sponsors Annual Conferences, Publishes E-Newsletters, Facilitates Regular Continuing Education Programs and Offers Bursaries & Awards to Members

NPAO Annual Conference
September

Working Towards an Effective & Efficient Health Care System

NPAO is Reducing Barriers to Ensure Full NP Scope of Practice & Role Stability by Ongoing Lobbying with Government & Health Care Decision Makers

Advocating for Better Standards in NP Practice

Working to achieve full role integration & career satisfaction in our changing health care system. We provide educational & professional development opportunities to support all NPs.

Questions? Contact us at info@npao.org