

# What is a Nurse Practitioner?

## What are Nurse Practitioners?

Nurse Practitioners (NPs) are healthcare providers with a background in nursing. Their advanced education and experience allows them to independently provide medical care to people. They provide a team-based approach tailored to your specific health concerns.

## Where do Nurse Practitioners work?

Nurse Practitioners work in many different healthcare settings, including:

- Community settings such as primary care clinics, healthcare centres, specialized clinics, and patients' homes
- Long-term care
- Hospitals

## What can Nurse Practitioners do?

Nurse Practitioners can do any of the following:

- Assess, diagnose, and treat health concerns
- Order and interpret tests
- Prescribe medicines
- Consult with and refer to other healthcare providers
- Provide care services to people at every stage of life
- Teach you and your family about wellness and how to manage new and ongoing health concerns.

## Do Nurse Practitioners replace other healthcare professionals?

Nurse Practitioners work with nurses, doctors, and other healthcare staff but do not replace them. With their background in nursing and advanced practice education, they have a unique role on the healthcare team.

Nurse Practitioners' and other healthcare providers' skills and responsibilities can overlap. They share responsibility for your healthcare experiences. This teamwork allows your healthcare team to give you complete care and increase your access to important community and hospital-based services.

## What are the benefits of Nurse Practitioners?

Nurse Practitioners work with you, your family, and your healthcare team so that you can make informed decisions about your health care. They can also improve your access to health care. This reduces pressures on the healthcare system.

