

BC NURSE PRACTITIONERS ARE IN **CRITICAL CARE/** **THE INTENSIVE CARE UNIT (ICU)**

ALEXANDER WONG, MN, RN, NP(F) is **the first Nurse Practitioner (NP) in BC** to work in the Critical Care Program/ICU at **Abbotsford Regional Hospital** that serves the Fraser Canyon.

Much of the day is devoted to direct client care, and **no day is typical or the same.**



SOME OF THE CASES I WORK WITH

- **Extremely ill patients** needing life support.
- Patients in **shock** (i.e. septic or cardiogenic).
- **Fentanyl overdoses, traumatic injuries** needing critical care.
- Patients requiring intensive care **after surgery or recent stroke.**
- **COPD, extreme pneumonias** needing mechanical ventilation.
- Patients needing **continuous dialysis.**

Most patients come from within the hospital or from surrounding community hospitals. Sometimes, we refer to Royal Columbian or Vancouver General for quaternary care.

MY TEAM



Intensive
Care
Physician



Critical Care
Registered
Nurse



Physio-
therapist



Dietician



Pharmacist



Respiratory
Therapist



Social
Worker

WE SEE PATIENTS TOGETHER, AND COLLABORATIVELY ASSESS AND ESTABLISH CARE PLANS FOR EACH PERSON.

MY ROLE

- The role is new, and dynamically evolving. NPs work autonomously and as part of the team here.
- Develop and see patients through their care plans.
- Able to perform advanced procedures (e.g. intubation, central lines, chest tubes, paracentesis).

“ My favourite part of the job is when patients leave the ICU. This means the team has come together to bring the person's health from the brink of disaster, or we have helped them transition with dignity and in peace. **”**