

# Nurse Practitioners

*Create Positive Change in the Health of all British Columbians.*



NPs are advanced practice nurses who have enhanced university education and training. We must meet specific requirements to register as NPs, and use the NP title. NPs are educated at least to a Master's level. <sup>1</sup>



NPs work with vulnerable populations, Aboriginal communities, adults, older adults, and children. We're committed to working with all patients and their families!



**There are over 400 NPs in BC.** <sup>2</sup>

In BC, NPs work in hospitals, acute care, emergency departments, wards, clinics, family practice clinics, nursing care homes, palliative care, and hospice services.



NPs must complete annual licensing requirements and the credentialing process administered by the *College of Registered Nurses of BC*. NP must also carry liability insurance administered by the *Canadian Nurses Protective Society*.



## NPs can:



- ✓ Assess, diagnose, and treat health issues.
- ✓ Order medical imaging, bloodwork, and specialized tests.
- ✓ Prescribe medical and psychosocial treatments.
- ✓ Prescribe medications and write orders to be carried out by other healthcare providers (e.g. dietary orders, oxygen therapy, physical therapy, etc.)
- ✓ Complete health and extended benefits forms.
- ✓ Work autonomously with healthcare teams in acute, primary, and residential settings.



It is still a challenge to access an NP. This is partly due to the number of NPs in BC and funding.

Generally, NPs are funded through a health authority or hospital. Unlike physicians, NP's cannot directly bill the BC Medical Service Plan for consultations and patient care visits. BCNPA is working with the Ministry of Health to strategize on maximizing the NP role in the health system.

### Sources:

1. College of Registered Nurses of BC (CRNBC) website ([www.crnbc.ca](http://www.crnbc.ca)).
2. Includes practicing and provisional NPs as of Nov. 2016. Provided by CRNBC.

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