

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **BC NURSE PRACTITIONERS CAN COMPLEMENT WALK-IN CLINICS AND PHYSICIANS, CREATE WIN-WIN FOR PATIENTS AND PROVINCIAL HEALTH SYSTEM**

*Vancouver, BC* – Approximately 700,000 BC citizens are currently unable to find a primary healthcare provider, and by default, go to their local walk-in clinic to access service. With the shuttering of walk-in clinics and shortage of physicians, nurse practitioners (NPs) are a viable option for many British Columbians seeking a primary healthcare provider.

NPs are Advanced Practice Nurses (APN) licensed by the College of Registered Nurses (CRNBC) in the classification -Nurse Practitioner. NPs provide comprehensive clinical care, including the diagnosis and management of disease/illness, prescribing medications, ordering/interpreting laboratory/diagnostic tests, and initiating referrals to specialists.

NPs also provide care in primary, specialty, and acute care settings in rural, remote and urban centers. NPs also work with marginalized, hard-to-reach patients.

NPs do not require physician supervision.

“Walk-in clinics are not designed to replace regular health care,” says Kathleen Fyvie, President of the BC Nurse Practitioner Association (BCNPA), “This heavy dependency on walk-in clinics is a direct result of the lack of access to full service primary health care. The provincial health system needs to more effectively and more broadly integrate NPs to ensure more patients are attached to consistent care. NPs create a win-win for all: NPs would open patient access to full service primary health care, help reduce the wait times at local clinics, and effectively complement the work physicians province wide.”

In BC, an NP or a general practitioner can serve primary care providers. Integrating NPs into the BC health system will allow patients a choice in their primary healthcare provider. [View BCNPA’s policy paper Primary Care in BC: A New Model for Integrating NPs.](#)

**About the BC Nurse Practitioner Association (BCNPA):** BCNPA is an independent, non-profit professional organization that is nearly 100% run by NP volunteers. As the voice of BC NPs, BCNPA represents the unique perspectives and needs of NPs and their practice in the province’s health and social policy system.

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