NURSE PRACTITIONER
Your Primary Care Provider

What is a Nurse Practitioner?

Nurse Practitioners (NP) are specially trained nurses educated at a Masters level with enhanced expertise. Nurse Practitioners provide comprehensive clinical care including the diagnosis and management of disease/illness, prescribing medications, ordering/interpreting laboratory/diagnostic tests, and initiating referrals[1] to specialists.

Is a Nurse Practitioner the same as a Family Doctor?

NP's are primary care providers, and although they are different from family doctors, they work independently *and* collaboratively with doctors in primary care settings including medical clinics. NP's do *not* require physician supervision.

Nurse Practitioners can...[3]

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



Requirements for Practice[2]

1. Bachelor's Degree in Nursing
2. Registered Nurse License
3. Masters Degree (BCCNM approved)
4. Examinations for advanced practice designation
5. BCCNM Examination and Registration

Annual license renewal requirements and credentialing process

6+ years of Academic and Clinical Preparation

Sources:

1) Nurses and Nurse Practitioners of British Columbia (NNPBC) website (www.nnpbc.com)
2) Graduate Nursing EDU - British Columbia (graduatenursingedu.org)
3) Nurses and Nurse Practitioners of British Columbia (www.nnpbc.com). 2021.

Nurse Practitioners often work in primary care clinics in B.C