

## The Big Six - Frequently Asked Questions Regarding Nurse Practitioners Becoming General Members

This FAQ was derived from the more-detailed “NP Infrastructure Funding for Divisions of Family Practice - Q&A” provided by the FPSC & NNPBC.

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### 1. How much funding are Divisions eligible to receive?

- Divisions will receive \$2,000 annually for each NP that is a full voting member.
- The total NP Infrastructure Funding amount a Division receives will be based on the number of NPs who are full voting members.

### 2. Where is the NP Infrastructure Funding coming from?

- FP Infrastructure Funding would not be used to provide NP Infrastructure Funding. NP Infrastructure Funding is provided through a Shared Cost Arrangement (SCA) between the MoH and NNPBC. This is separate from the Physician Master Agreement between the MoH and Doctors of BC which funds the Joint Collaborative Committees, the GPSC, and the Divisions.

### 3. Which NPs are eligible to become Division members?

- Any NP can become a Division member. However, in order to receive NP Infrastructure Funding these NPs must be:
  - Licensed to practice to their full scope (this includes provisionally licensed NPs);
  - Actively practicing in primary and community care with a valid MSP#; and
  - Registered and in good standing with the BC College of Nurses and Midwives (BCCNM).

### 4. If a Division includes NPs as members and those NPs have different views than their FP colleagues on an aspect of primary care, whose views does the Division represent? Is the Division responsible for bringing both NP and FP perspectives to partners?

- The FPs who currently constitute the majority of Division members already represent a variety of perspectives, areas of focus, and priorities. Including NPs will simply add more diversity and will ensure that the primary healthcare needs of all community members are considered. This will strengthen Divisions’ understanding of the populations they serve and result in better outcomes for patients.
- As of October 2023, the Campbell River and District Division of Family practice has 84 total members (100%, voting members).

**5. Divisions are physician-led, physician-centered, and represent the needs and views of physicians. How is this going to be affected by the inclusion of NPs?**

- Physician leadership is essential, and physicians will remain the most prominent group in Divisions. Approximately 775 NPs currently work in primary and community care across BC (includes both PCN contract NP's and HA-employed NP's). By contrast, there are approximately 7,400 FPs working in the province (roughly 6,800 are registered as Division members. If a Division chooses to invite NPs to become members, physician voices and perspectives will remain well-represented and influential.
- While Divisions were developed as physician led organizations, the intent from the beginning was to have voice and influence in advocating for the health care needs of their communities rather than being exclusively focused on physician needs. Divisions were developed under a collaborative framework to work in partnership with health authorities, community, and other providers to have a positive impact on not only the provider (or physician) experience but also keeping in mind the patient experience and population health outcomes when developing supports or influencing clinical programs.
- In their role as hubs for integrating patient care at the community level, Divisions influence family practice clinical care and leadership at the local, regional, and provincial levels. As longitudinal primary care providers, NPs offer valuable insight into both the needs of their patients and how those needs can best be met.
- Including NPs as full voting members will provide Divisions with the opportunity to better work with NPs in a team-based care environment and collaboratively address practice concerns, including how patients are attached, panel size and composition, and the availability of coverage.

**6. Can NPs serve on Division boards, and if an NP is a full voting Division member and wants to be a board director, will this tip the balance of those eligible for remuneration and therefore affect our restriction under the BC Societies Act?**

- NPs who are full voting members may be eligible to serve on Division boards if permitted by Division bylaws. Divisions may amend their bylaws to allow NPs to do so.
- Of the 35 Divisions in BC, 9 Divisions have NPs with full membership, and four of those Divisions have NPs serving on their boards.