

## **Nurse Practitioners in BC. – FAQ's**

This fact sheet provides information about some of the commonly asked questions about Nurse Practitioners.

What is an NP? NPs are Masters and Doctoral prepared advanced practice nurses who diagnose and treat diseases and health conditions, educate and support patients who with health issues that range from simple to complex, acute to chronic.

Where do BC's NP's work? NPs are positioned to work in both independent and collaborative roles in BC. NP's practice in acute care, outpatient clinics, residential care and community settings. NPs work in rural and urban communities across BC and provide health care services to patients of all ages who require acute, chronic or episodic care.

How are NP's Reimbursed? BCNPA doesn't recommend FFS or other volume based funding as a strategy for reimbursement for NPs. NPs pride themselves on the quality of their interactions not the volume of patients seen per day.

Do NP's belong to a health care union? BC's NP's are independent contracted employees and do not belong to a health care union. BCNPA represents the voice of NPs in BC and does not support NP representation by unions'. Currently, most NP's contracts are offered using the HEABC salary grid for Health Authority employees. BCNPA believes that all NP contracts should reimburse NPs based on level of experience, education and specialty and that NPs should be involved in the negotiation of contracts that includes practice support, remuneration and overall work environment.

How are NP's regulated and licensed? The scope and limitations of NP practice is regulated by the College of Registered Nurses of BC (CRNBC). BCNPA supports the use of a valid and reliable certification process to determine NP entry to practice competence.

Do NP's collaborate with other health professionals? NPs practice independently and in collaboration with other primary care providers in BC. These primary care providers may include Medical Doctors, Naturopathic Doctors, Chiropractors, Physiotherapists or Pharmacists and Registered Nurses.

Do Nurse Practitioners carry liability insurance? NP's carry additional liability insurance administered through the College of Registered Nurses of BC (CRNBC) as is required for the level of Nurse Practitioner scope of practice. NP liability insurance should be equal to that of their GP colleagues.

Where will I find Nurse Practitioners working?

- Community Primary Health Care teams
- FFS Family Physician Practice
- Variety of Acute/Specialty Medicine & Surgical Care teams
- Rural and urban settings
- First Nations health clinics
- Immigrant health clinics
- Areas with socially vulnerable including street entrenched, including clients with HIV/Aids and addictions
- Mental Health services
- Community Frail Elderly Home Health programs

**“NPs need to be seen in BC Primary Care. - Do you see an NP?”**

Frequently Asked Questions about Nurse Practitioners  
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