

# 3 Years Down the Road: Exploring the Implementation of the NP Role in British Columbia, Canada

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## Purpose

1. Identify and describe NP positions in BC
2. Identify factors influencing NP role implementation
3. Understand the extent to which NPs are able to enact the BC legislated scope of practice
4. Identify the successes of the NP role in BC

## Design and Sampling

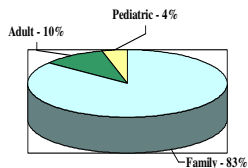
Exploratory interview study involving

- NPs representing –
  - Family, Adult & Pediatric NPs
  - variety of employers
  - diverse geographical locations in BC
  - different models of practice
- BC health authority NP leadership
- Physician colleagues

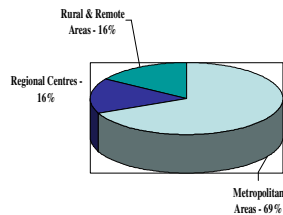
## NP Positions in BC

(June 2008)

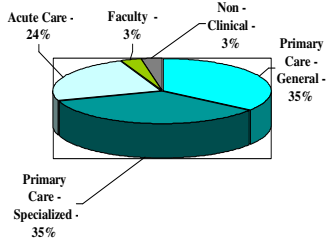
NP Registration Category  
97 Registered NPs



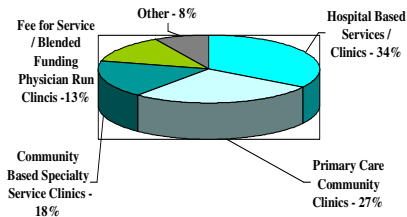
Geographical Location



NP Context of Practice



Models of NP Service Delivery



## Factors influencing Role Implementation

### Barriers to Role Implementation

- Lack of basic infrastructure to support the NP role
- Mismatch between NP education and requirements of available positions
- Lack of stable funding for NP positions
- Lack of acceptance of the NP role by physician colleagues
- Challenges with acute care positions –
  - hospital bylaws and policies
- Role development issues –
  - Lack of support for the role
  - Lack of clarity and understanding of the role
  - Lack recognition of the role by other health care professionals
- System issues – legislation restricting NP practice, government forms and processes

### Facilitators of Role Implementation

- Choosing appropriate locations for NP roles
- Support for the NP role by physicians and other health care providers
- Support for the NP role by health authority leadership
- Development and support of NP communities of practice
- NPs expressing satisfaction with NP role
- Patients expressing satisfaction with care provided by NPs

## Enactment of the BC Legislated Scope of Practice

- Majority (85%) of NPs able to enact the legislated scope of practice
- Restrictions – 41 legislative acts (provincial / federal) require amendments to include NPs

## Success of NP Role

### Benefits to patients –

- Improved access to care
- Reduced length of hospital stay
- Reduced need for hospital admissions
- Better management of chronic conditions
- Patients “flocking” to NP run community based primary and specialty clinics

*“The interactions that I have with the patients and their families, their gratitude is so evident and the benefit they get from the role is so evident.” (NP)*

*“I hear so many positive things from patients, from the community about how good NPs are, and what a good role [it is]. It’s hard not to like your job when you get so many positive things happening.” (NP)*

### Benefits to Health Care System

- Keeping patients from using emergency departments and out of hospital
- Reduced number of transfers from residential facilities to hospitals
- Meeting the needs of the community

*“They are doing the community engagement ... exactly why we thought this was a nursing role. Of course, they are doing the medical stuff too, but it is not “more of the same”. We are actually beginning to see the pay off.” (NP Leadership)*

### Benefits to Physicians

- Physician satisfaction with NP role
- NPs and Physicians working collaboratively
- Improved health promotion & illness prevention for patients

*“It is an overall win/win for everyone, it has been fantastic and now I wouldn’t do it any other way. I can’t understand why it has not been done long ago.” (Physician)*

*“If you look at our practice now, the patient is getting access to the right clinician for the right problem more often than not and this is a real benefit and a great use of resources.” (Physician)*

## Acknowledgements:

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