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**NURSE PRACTITIONERS (NPs) IMPROVE
TIMELY ACCESS TO HIGH-QUALITY,
COST-EFFECTIVE CARE** in a broad range
of health-care models. Through their
practice and collaboration with other
health-care providers, NPs reduce
pressure on the health-care system.¹

Education

Minimum 6 years of academic
training plus clinical experience



Baccalaureate
degree in nursing



RN licence/
registration



Graduate NP
education



NP licence/
registration

93%
of Canadians

are confident that
NPs can meet
their day-to-day
health needs²

Number of Canadians
receiving primary care
from an NP:

**3
million**

Estimated 800
patients per NP³

AUTONOMOUS ROLES FOR NPs:



PERFORM PHYSICAL
EXAMS



ORDER TESTS



DIAGNOSE & TREAT
ILLNESSES



WRITE
PRESCRIPTIONS



ADMIT / DISCHARGE



PROVIDE
REFERRALS

IMPACT

IMPROVED ACCESS TO CARE⁴



Decreased appointment
wait times by offering
same-day appointments
for urgent patients or
within 3 days⁵

20%

reduction
in emergency department
admissions from long
term care⁶

24%

increase in family
satisfaction with
quality of care⁷

55%

reduction in
the use of multiple
medications⁸

1960s

Begin practising to increase the
quality of health care in northern
and underserved locations



2006

1,162 NPs; Canadian Nurse
Practitioner Initiative formed

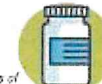


1997

Becomes a regulated profession to
address the increasing demand for
primary health care

2012

Federal government passes *New Classes of
Practitioners Regulations*, granting additional
prescribing authority for controlled drugs



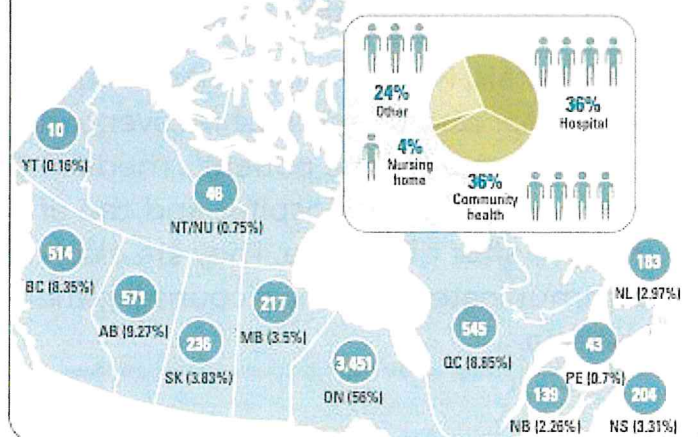
2009

New regulations broaden
scope of practice

2019

5,159 NPs

WHERE DO THEY WORK?



CANADIAN
NURSES
ASSOCIATION

¹Canadian Nurses Association. (2017). *The nurse practitioner Position statement*. Ottawa, Author. ²Francis, N. (2016). *Canadian opinions on home healthcare and nurses*. *Research Policy Series 2016-6541*. Ottawa, Canada: ³Marin-Watson, R., Boushel, F., Alipour, K., Bryant-Luxton, G., Rayner, J., Laidy, V., Vicars, K., & McKinlay, R. J. (2019). *Reckoning for emergency department patient care: use and comparative analysis of nurse practitioner prescribers*. *Canadian Journal of Nursing Research*. Retrieved from <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/0898010119850000> ⁴Wong, J., & Thompson, J. (2014). *Nurse practitioners changing health behaviours: Descriptive and prescriptive study*. *Nursing Management* 20(1), 20-27. ⁵Wong, J., & Macdonald, M. (2014). *Customer satisfaction with nurse practitioners in collaborative practice*. *Journal of Advanced Nursing* 78(1), 1-10.



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	NURSE	FAMILY PHYSICIAN
Act as most responsible provider	✓	✓
Order X-rays and act on results	✓	✓
Order blood work and act on results	✓	✓
Prescribe medications	✓	✓
Prescribe narcotics	✓	✓
Prescribe Methadone/Suboxone	✓	✓
Manage chronic conditions such as high blood pressure or diabetes	✓	✓
Perform procedures such as stitches, casts, specialized injections, mole removal, etc.	✓	✓
Order/perform screening tests such as pap smears, prostate exams, etc.	✓	✓
Refer to specialists	✓	✓
Drivers Medical	✓	✓
Disability forms	✓	✓
WCB injuries	✓	✓

If there are complex health problems or something beyond the knowledge, skills or abilities of a Nurse Practitioner, they have a responsibility to ensure that the appropriate specialist or health care provider is consulted. Nurse Practitioners want each patient to get the best care possible, and in some instances that may mean transfer of care to a physician. In other care models, the Nurse Practitioner may care for a patient in a care team including a physician and/or other health care professionals.



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Units. They can order tests, diagnose problems, provide or order treatments, refer to specialists and provide follow-up or ongoing care. Depending on the setting in which they work, NPs can do everything



Alberta NP Michelle Jeannotte at work in clinic

from check-ups to specialized injections. Some of these abilities include minor surgeries, stitches, casts, intubations, mental health care, inserting IUDs, Medical Assistance in Dying, and much more! Nurse Practitioners can perform comprehensive physicals (check-ups), treat illnesses, screen for health problems, and manage chronic diseases like asthma, diabetes, hypertension, high cholesterol, etc. They can monitor the health of babies, children, adults, and the elderly, and treat their illnesses should they get sick.

Nurse practitioners are accountable for their own practice. It is their responsibility to communicate with clients about results and diagnoses, treatment plans, further testing, referral to other health-care professionals if needed, and are responsible for follow-up. Nurse practitioners counsel clients on symptom management, health maintenance, medication management, alternative therapies, rehabilitation strategies and other health programs.


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