



# NURSE PRACTITIONERS IN CANADA

Rising healthcare costs, shortages of medical professionals, and limited access to care, the role of the advanced practice nurse is now being expanded and clearly defined. But who are they? What is their scope of work? And why are they so essential?

## WHAT IS A NURSE PRACTITIONER?

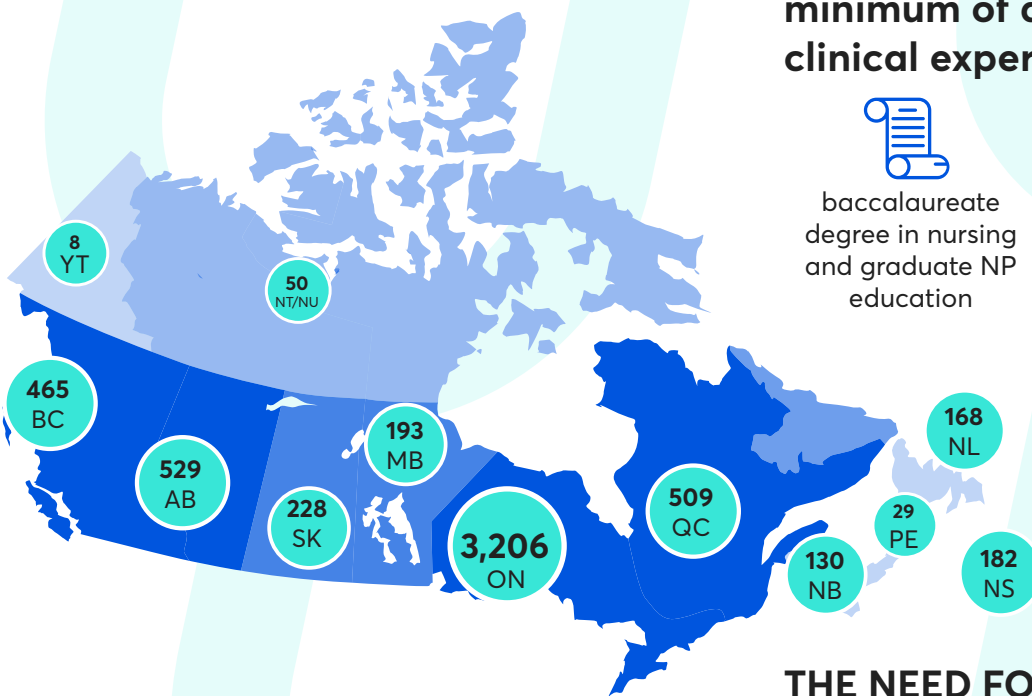
A nurse practitioner is a registered nurse who has additional education and nursing experience, which enables them to: autonomously diagnose and treat illnesses, order and interpret tests, and prescribe medications.

Canada also recognizes Nurse Practitioners (Family All Ages, Acute Adult, and Pediatric Nurse Practitioners) in the following specialties: primary healthcare (PHCNP) and acute care (ACNP).

**6,447** NPs in Canada (14 NPs per 100K population)

**94%** NPs are female aged 30-59

## WHERE DO NPs WORK?



**35.1%** Community health (clinics, healthcare centres, physicians' office, patients' homes)

**3.8%** Long-term care (nursing homes)

**36.5%** Hospitals (outpatient clinics, emergency rooms and other patient areas)

**23.6%** Other

## WHAT CAN NPs DO?



Make a diagnosis, identify a disease, disorder or condition



Order and interpret diagnostic tests



Recommend or prescribe treatment—including drugs—and specific procedures



Communicate the diagnosis and test results to the patient and to other health care professionals

**6 years**

## EDUCATION

minimum of academic training + clinical experience



baccalaureate degree in nursing and graduate NP education



RN license/registration and NP license/registration

## THE NEED FOR NURSE PRACTITIONERS

### Improved access to care:

decreased appointment wait-times by offering same-day appointments

**24%** increase in family satisfaction with quality of care

**55%** reduction in the use of multiple medications

**20%** reduction in emergency department admissions from long term care

**93%** Canadian are confident that NPs can meet their day-to-day health needs

**AND ALREADY**

**3m** Canadian receive primary care from an NP

Sources <https://www.graduatenuisingedu.org/canada/>  
<https://cna-aiic.ca/en/nursing-practice/the-practice-of-nursing/advanced-nursing-practice/nurse-practitioners>

<https://www.canadianliving.com/health/prevention-and-recovery/article/what-you-should-know-about-nurse-practitioners>  
<https://npac-aiipc.org/>