

Let's compare:

Illness Prevention & Health Promotion	GP	NP	RN
Health History	✓	✓	✓
Screening & check-ups	✓	✓	✓
Health education & lifestyle coaching	✓	✓	✓
Physical exam	✓	✓	✓
Vaccinations	✓	✓	✓
Lab & imaging orders	✓	✓	
Medication review	✓	✓	✓
Medication prescription	✓	✓	
Telephone advice	✓	✓	✓

Women's Health	GP	NP	RN
Birth control counselling	✓	✓	✓
IUD insertion & removal	✓	✓	
Sexually transmitted infection testing & treatment	✓	✓	✓
Pregnancy confirmation	✓	✓	
Prenatal history & assessment	✓	✓	
Prenatal care & postnatal care	✓	✓	
Labour & delivery	✓		
Pap tests	✓	✓	✓
Breast exams	✓	✓	✓

Referral to other Health Care Providers	GP	NP	RN
Community resources, such as Physio, Dietician	✓	✓	✓
Medical specialists	✓	✓	
Admission to hospital	✓	✓	

Diagnosis & Treatment of Medical Conditions	GP	NP	RN
Initial diagnosis & treatment	✓	✓	
Adjust treatment	✓	✓	
Monitor stable condition	✓	✓	

Legend **GP** General Practitioner/Family Physician
NP Nurse Practitioner
RN Registered Nurse

Find out more about NURSE PRACTITIONERS:

British Columbia College of
Nurses & Midwives
www.bccnm.ca

For more information
about health, nutrition
and fitness, call or visit the
following resources:

Interior Health Authority
www.interiorhealth.ca

BC Health Link
www.healthlinkbc.ca
24-hour availability call 8-1-1

Health Canada
www.hc-sc.gc.ca



Interior Health

NURSE PRACTITIONERS

How can they help?
An Information Guide



Working with you to
improve health care

The receptionist asks,

“Would you like to see the Nurse Practitioner?”

- What is a Nurse Practitioner (NP)?
- What can an NP do?
- Could an NP help me?

Who are Nurse Practitioners?

Nurse Practitioners (NPs) have a Master’s degree in nursing, along with other speciality education and training which gives them advanced knowledge, skills and expertise in health care. NPs practice with unique perspectives to combine prevention, care, and cure.

NPs work closely with patients, families, other health care professionals to take care of acute and complex illnesses. They support communities in developing, evaluating and putting health programs in action for the public.

Where do NPs work?

NPs provide health care to patients and families in a variety of settings including family practice, urgent care, health centres, hospitals, and specialty clinics.

What can an NP do?

- ✓ Health promotion and give advice
- ✓ Diagnose and manage illness, disease, injury, and mental health conditions
- ✓ Order and interpret diagnostic tests
- ✓ Prescribe medication & treatments
- ✓ Refer to specialists
- ✓ Care for pregnant patients
- ✓ Monitor and manage chronic illness
- ✓ Perform minor procedures such as wart treatment, stitches, mole removal, PAP tests

Could a Nurse Practitioner help me?

An NP is skilled and educated to provide care for many illnesses and conditions. If you need more care than your NP can offer, you will be referred to an appropriate specialist. NPs work as a team with other health care providers to ensure you are getting the best care needed.

Health Promotion and Illness Prevention

NPs have important roles in their communities. They are leaders, educators, and advocates for health promotion and illness/injury prevention.

Nurse Practitioners:

- ✓ Support patients of all ages while maintaining and respecting culture
- ✓ Offer friendly and non-judgemental environments
- ✓ Help patients make informed decisions for their health care
- ✓ Provide access for patients to have health care needs met
- ✓ Apply a patient and family-centred approach
- ✓ Contribute to operational planning
- ✓ Work with or connect with other health care professionals including (but not limited to): specialist physicians, surgeons, family physicians, nurses, midwives, pharmacists, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, dietitians, speech language pathologists, respiratory therapists, massage therapists, social workers, natural health & naturopathic practitioners, traditional healers, counsellors, navigators, medical office assistants, optometrists, dentists, audiologists, and first responders.

How are NPs funded?

Most NP positions are funded by the BC Ministry of Health. NP roles are salary-based and are not fee-for-service positions.