

---

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What is a Nurse Practitioner (NP)?

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

### Where do Nurse Practitioners work in B.C.?

NPs work in both independent and collaborative practice 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 NPs regulated and licensed?

NP practice is regulated by the College of Registered Nurses of BC (CRNBC). The full scope of practice document for NPs can be viewed [on the CRNBC website](#). BCNPA supports the use of a valid and reliable certification process to determine NP entry to practice competence.

### Do NPs collaborate with other health professionals?

NPs practice independently and in collaboration with other primary care providers in B.C. These primary care providers may include Medical Doctors including specialists, Naturopathic Doctors, Chiropractors, Physiotherapists, Pharmacists, Registered Nurses and others.

### How are NPs Paid?

NPs pride themselves on the quality of their interactions not the volume of patients seen per day. Most NPs work in a salary based funding model rather than a Fee for Service model (which is how most doctors are paid). Most NPs are employees of a Health Authority.

### Do NPs belong to a Union?

In British Columbia, NPs are independent contracted employees and do not belong to a health care union. BCNPA represents the voice of NPs in B.C. and does not support NP representation by unions.

### Do Nurse Practitioners carry liability insurance?

All B.C. NPs carry liability insurance administered through CRNBC. This is a requirement for all NPs and is equal to the insurance physicians carry.

### Where can I find a Nurse Practitioner?

- Community Primary Health Care teams
- FFS Family Practices
- Acute/Specialty Medicine & Surgical Care teams in hospitals
- Rural and urban settings
- First Nations health clinics
- Immigrant health clinics
- Areas with socially vulnerable population including clients with HIV/Aids and addictions
- Mental Health services
- Community Frail Elderly Home Health programs

To ask a question or for more information, email [info@bcnpa.org](mailto:info@bcnpa.org)