



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?

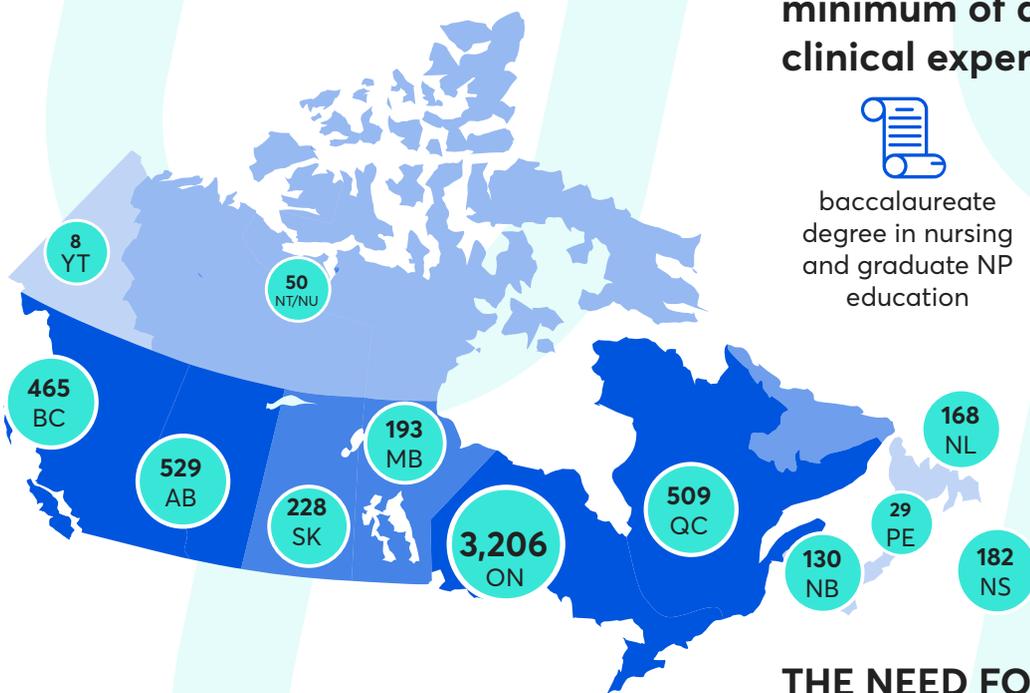
A nurse practitioner is a registered nurse who has additional education and nursing experience, which enables them to: autonomously diagnose and treat illnesses, order and interpret tests, and prescribe medications.

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/>