



*Nurse Practitioners are knowledgeable, professional, and accessible.*

**– Adrienne, Pickering**

*Nurse Practitioners are a valuable support to families and the health care system, facilitating quick, accessible and flexible services in a warm caring manner. I cannot say enough about how helpful they are to me and my family.*

**– Pam & Margaret, Whitby**

*Nurse practitioner care is the best care I have received in 22 years.*

**– Murray, Penetanguishene**

*For more information, contact:*

**Nurse Practitioners’  
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*NPAO is an expert group of the  
Registered Nurses’ Association of Ontario.*

# Nurse Practitioners in Ontario



*Health care is at the  
core of everything we do!*

**[www.npao.org](http://www.npao.org)**

*Our profession is helping to  
transform health care through safe,  
effective and collaborative care.*



**NURSE PRACTITIONERS’  
ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO**

## What is a Nurse Practitioner?

A Nurse Practitioner (NP) is a nurse with advanced university education who works both independently and in collaboration with other health professionals to provide you with quality health care services. NPs take care of the physical, emotional, mental and social aspects of their clients' health needs.

## What does an NP do?

NPs help keep their clients, client's family and community well. NPs provide care to individuals of all ages and focus on preventing disease.

As a member of your health care team, NPs can:

- Diagnose illness and injuries
- Perform physical check-ups
- Order and interpret diagnostic tests
- Provide counselling and education
- Provide treatment
- Order procedures
- Refer clients to other health care professionals and specialists
- Prescribe medication
- Manage chronic diseases such as diabetes, COPD and asthma

*As of 2011, NPs can:*

- Treat, transfer and discharge both in-patients and community out-patients from hospital. (NPs will be able to admit patients to hospital as of July 2012)
- Cast fractures and reduce dislocations
- Order blood products and oxygen

**A vital part of your health care team, Ontario's 2,000 nurse practitioners work in a diverse range of community and hospital settings across the province.**



*"I am grateful for access to quality nurse practitioner care in our remote community. It led to the early recognition of an urgent health problem and facilitated timely referral to the specialty care I required."*

*– Bruce, Armstrong*

## Where do NPs work?

NPs work in rural and urban areas including:

- Family Health Teams
- Community Health Centres
- Nurse Practitioner-Led Clinics
- Hospitals including emergency departments
- Rehabilitation facilities
- Long-term care facilities
- Schools and workplaces
- Home health care agencies

## To Learn More

Visit our website, [www.npao.org](http://www.npao.org).

## Nurse Practitioner Specialities

The specialties in Ontario are:

1. NP- Adult
2. NP- Pediatric
3. NP- Primary Health Care
4. NP- Anaesthesia

## NP-Adult and Pediatric

Adult and Pediatric NPs work with clients and families in hospitals and outpatient clinics. NPs may specialize in areas such as dialysis, orthopedics, neonatal intensive care, critical care or oncology.

NPs explain health conditions and expected benefits of any treatment, and provide guidance to help clients maintain health and prevent complications.

## NP-Primary Health Care

NPs in Primary Health Care provide primary health care services.

A visit to an NP in primary care can include treatment for an acute illness, a routine prenatal check up, a well baby exam, the monitoring and treatment of chronic illnesses and screening tests such as immunizations and PAP tests.

## NP-Anaesthesia

The NP-Anaesthesia role was introduced in Ontario in 2010.

These NPs conduct pre-admission assessments, provide anaesthesia services, and monitor clients during operations. They also manage a client's pain after a procedure or operation.