

## NURSE PRACTITIONERS

Nurse Practitioners (NPs) have become essential providers of healthcare to people in multiple settings and fulfill a critical role in the health professional team. Over 40 years of evidence-based research supports that advanced practice registered nurses provide safe, quality, cost-effective care, with positive patient outcomes.



Michigan faces a physician shortage greater than the national average, and the largest shortage is in primary care. Utilization of nurse practitioners increases access to healthcare, and NPs can save money by reducing the direct and indirect costs of professional liability.

**An NP is your partner in health, bringing a unique perspective to health services by placing an emphasis on both care and cure.**

## The Michigan Council of Nurse Practitioners

Formed in 2000 as a nonprofit, professional membership association representing all nurse practitioner specialties throughout the state, the Michigan Council of Nurse Practitioners (MICNP) seeks to provide nurse practitioners the leadership and resources to improve their practice environment through education of its members and the community, legislative support on issues affecting the profession, and promoting access to nurse practitioner services.

MICNP Administrative Office:

P.O. Box 87934

Canton, MI 48187

(734)432-9881 phone

(734)432-9884 fax

[www.micnp.org](http://www.micnp.org)

[www.facebook.com/micnp](http://www.facebook.com/micnp)

[www.twitter.com/MichiganNPs](http://www.twitter.com/MichiganNPs)



# THE NURSE PRACTITIONER



## WHAT IS A NURSE PRACTITIONER?

A Nurse Practitioner (NP) is a registered nurse who has an advanced degree in the assessment, diagnosis and treatment of patients. NPs have national certification in their area of expertise. They specialize in areas

such as pediatrics, geriatrics, family and women's health. In a clinical setting, NPs perform physical examinations, treat patients for acute and chronic illnesses and



prescribe medications as needed. All NPs specialize in preventive care, teaching patients about their conditions and how to stay healthier. They can serve as Primary Care Providers (PCP) for healthy and ill children and adults and their fees are covered by most private, Medicare and Medicaid health insurances.

## REQUIREMENTS FOR PRACTICE:

- State NP Licensure/Registration
- National Board Certification
- Graduate Nursing Degree
- Registered Nurse License
- Bachelor's Degree in Nursing

## WHAT CAN A NURSE PRACTITIONER DO FOR ME?

NPs can:

Conduct physical examinations, diagnose and treat illnesses, perform procedures, write prescriptions and order and interpret laboratory and diagnostic studies.

*NPs can also provide services such as:*

- Family planning services,
- Healthcare during pregnancy,
- Health-risk evaluation for all ages,
- Mental health treatment and counseling,
- Health education and wellness promotion, and
- Referral to other health care specialists.



## NPs ARE EXCELLENT PROVIDERS OF CARE IN MANY SPECIALTY AREAS INCLUDING:

- Acute Care
- Neonatal
- Adult
- Pediatric
- Family
- Psychiatric/Mental Health
- Gerontology
- Women's Health

## WHY CHOOSE A NURSE PRACTITIONER?

Along with the assessment, diagnosis and treatment of illnesses, NPs focus on health promotion and disease prevention. More and more people are choosing NPs as primary healthcare providers for reasons such as:



- *NPs take the time to listen to your worries and concerns, as well as those of your family;*
- *NPs explain the details of health problems, medications and other topics to help you understand how to take care of yourself;*
- *NPs provide individualized care;*
- *NPs work in collaboration with physicians and other healthcare professionals to ensure that everyone receives the best possible healthcare;*
- *NPs care about you, your health, your family and the community in which you live, and*
- *NPs teach you how to care for yourself when ill, as well as how to stay healthy.*

## CAN A NURSE PRACTITIONER PRESCRIBE MEDICINE?

NPs can prescribe treatment and medications according to guidelines of the Michigan Public Health Code. In Michigan, NPs may have prescriptive authority under the delegation of a licensed physician.