



**NURSE
PRACTITIONERS'
ASSOCIATION OF
ONTARIO**
Since 1973

NPAO ADVOCACY

Ontario cannot solve access to care without fully integrating NPs

**Funding, policy, and practice
models must enable NPs to
work to full scope.**



Ontario cannot solve access to care without fully integrating Nurse Practitioners.



NPs are ready to help address the province's access challenges, but outdated funding structures, inconsistent integration, and system barriers continue to limit the impact NPs can have for patients and communities.



NPAO continues to advocate for policy and funding models that enable NPs to work to full scope, strengthen team-based care, and connect more Ontarians to timely, comprehensive healthcare.



DR. NP MICHELLE ACORN

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FCAN, FAAN, GCNC, FFMRCISI, FQNI
NPAO CEO



Stronger policy. Full scope. Better care for all Ontarians.

npao.org

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www.npao.org



NPAC definition of a Nurse Practitioner (NP)

A NP is a highly educated healthcare professional with foundational training and education in nursing.

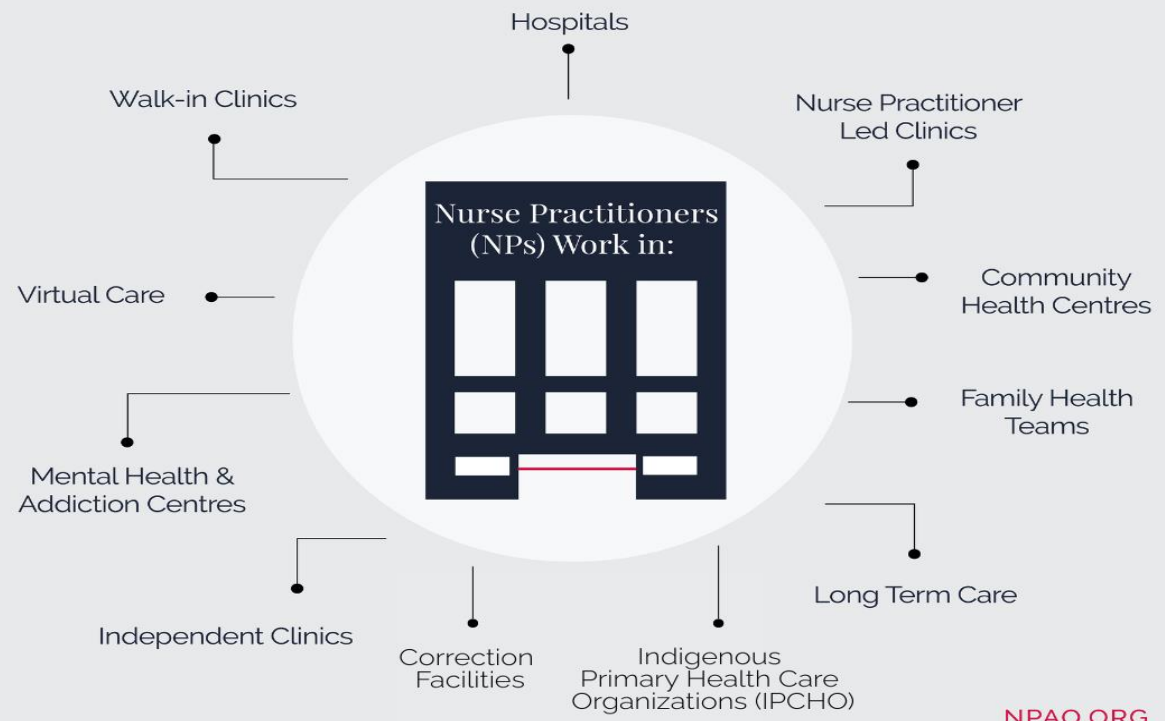
NPs play a unique and complementary role in the healthcare system, practicing autonomously while integrating advanced clinical knowledge, diagnostic skills, and specialized expertise.

They are qualified to diagnose, treat, and manage a wide range of health conditions, from minor ailments to complex illnesses.

Rooted in whole-person and patient-centered care, NPs consider the social determinants of health to provide comprehensive and individualized patient care.

Their practice reflects both their nursing background and advanced medical knowledge, allowing them to effectively meet diverse patient needs.

Nurse Practitioners (NPs) Work in:



NPAO.ORG



Nurse Practitioners (NPs) begin their nursing career as Registered Nurses (RNs)



After gaining experience as RNs, can become NPs by obtaining an advanced graduate education degree (i.e. Masters degree)



as well as meeting additional nursing experience and exam requirements

Visit npao.org to learn more about Nurse Practitioners



Ontario Nurse Practitioners (NPs) Have an Average of 9.8 years of Prior Experience as Registered Nurses (RNs)



Average Number of Years Between Ontario Registered Nurse (RN) to Nurse Practitioner (NP) Registration

Parts of this material are based on data provided by CNO. However, the analyses and opinions expressed here are those of the author and not necessarily those of CNO.



Nurse Practitioner
Association of Canada

Association des
Infirmières et Infirmiers
praticiens du Canada

NURSE PRACTITIONERS IN CANADA

Making a difference in your health



- Fastest growing** healthcare profession
- 34 NP programs** graduate-level
- Minimum 6 years** of healthcare education

Full scope of practice:



Perform physical exams



Order tests



Diagnose & treat illnesses



Admit & discharge

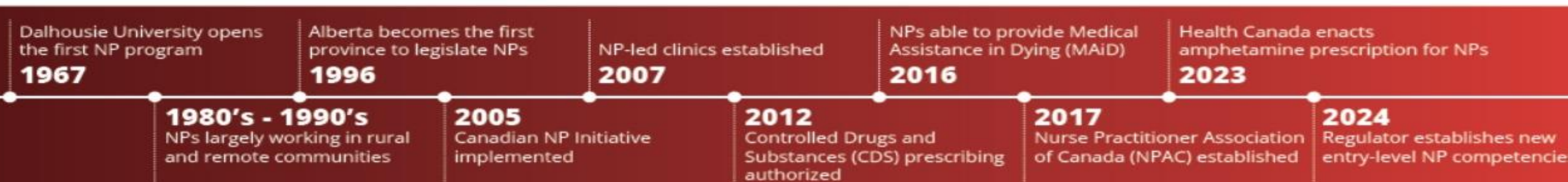


Write prescriptions



Refer to specialty services

Known decreases in	Known increases in
- falls - hospital transfers - length of hospital stays - multiple unneeded medications - patients who left without being seen by a provider because of wait times in the Emergency Department - physical/chemical restraint use - wait times	- access and flow - access to care - continuity of care - cost-savings - disease prevention - health promotion - healthcare efficiency - patient attachment to a provider - patient satisfaction





Nurse Practitioners (NPs) **CAN**:



Diagnose
Conditions



Order &
Interpret
Tests



Provide
Specialist
Referrals



Perform
Comprehensive
Assessments



Prescribe
Medications



Provide
Specialty
Care



PROVIDE FOR MOST
OF YOUR HEALTHCARE
NEEDS

The **SCOPE**:

RESEARCH CONFIRMS **NPs IMPROVE PUBLIC ACCESS TO
HIGH QUALITY CARE AT COST SAVINGS TO THE SYSTEM.**



Improved
Healthcare
Access



Decreased
ER Visits



High Client
Satisfaction



Effective
Patient
Outcomes



Reduced
Hospital
Re-admissions



Cost
Effective



Improved
Interprofessional
Collaboration



Reduce
Wait Times



Alleviate
Pressures
On the Health
Care System



The Canada Health Act Services Policy clarifies that medically necessary services—whether provided by a physician or NP—are expected to be covered under provincial/territorial health insurance plans. The policy is in effect April 1, 2026. Provinces will first report any patient charges for physician-equivalent services, should they occur, beginning December 2028.



NPAO

POSITION STATEMENT

**Ontario's Nurse Practitioners
Celebrate Inclusion in Provincial
Health Plans: A Win for Patients &
Providers**



**Nurse Practitioners' Association of
Ontario**

January 15 at 1:12 PM · 🌐

**Nurse Practitioners Eager to Collaborate with Dr.
Jane Philpott and Ontario's Primary Care Action
Team to Improve Primary Care Access for
Ontarians**

The Nurse Practitioners' Association of Ontario (NPAO) proudly supports Minister Sylvia Jones, Dr. Jane Philpott and the Government of Ontario's Primary Health Care Action Team as they work to achieve their ambitious goal of connecting 100 per cent of Ontarians with a nurse practitioner (NP) or family doctor within publicly funded care teams.

NP Attachment in Primary Care



NURSE PRACTITIONER (NP) ATTACHMENT IN PRIMARY CARE

NURSE PRACTITIONER ATTACHMENT IN PRIMARY CARE

CARE PROVIDERS/ MOST RESPONSIBLE PROVIDER IN A PRIMARY CARE TEAM



- ✓ Physicians
- ✓ Nurse Practitioners

INTEGRATED HEALTH PROFESSIONALS (IHP) IN A PRIMARY CARE TEAM



- ✓ Physician Assistant
- ✓ Registered Nurse
- ✓ Registered Practical Nurse
- ✓ Dietician
- ✓ Social Worker
- ✓ Physiotherapist
- ✓ Kinesiology
- ✓ Occupational Therapy
- ✓ Pharmacist
- ✓ Community Outreach
- ✓ Administrative Assistant

MODELS OF CARE IN A PRIMARY CARE TEAM



- ✓ Family Health Teams
- ✓ Nurse Practitioner Led Clinic
- ✓ Community Health Centers
- ✓ Indigenous Primary Health Care Organizations (IPCHO)

RESULT FROM NP ATTACHMENT IN PRIMARY CARE

Patients have increased
attachment & access

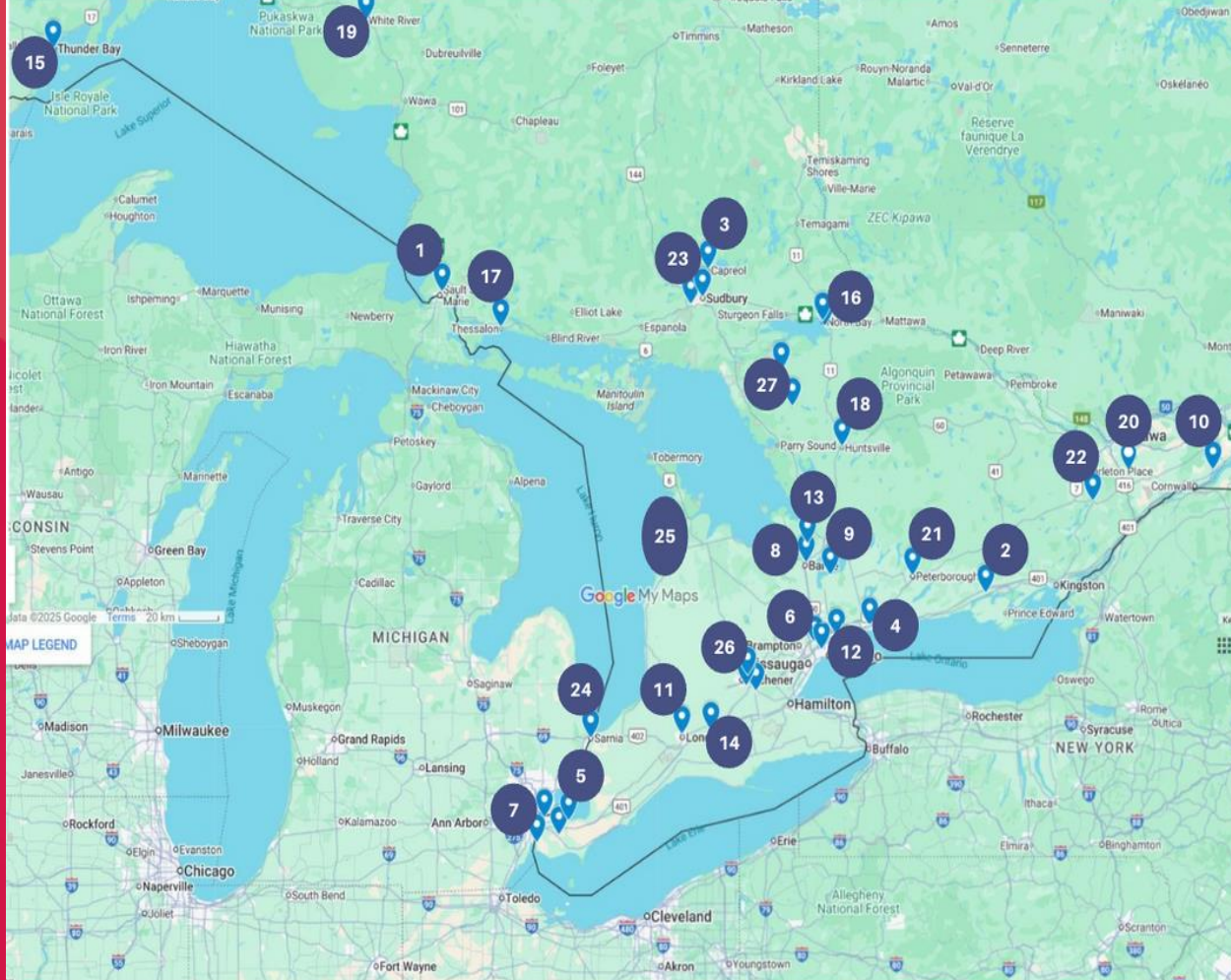


All team members have a
role in increasing patient
attachment & access

Nurse Practitioner Led Clinics



npao.org



NPLCS ACROSS ONTARIO

- | | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 1) Algoma | 8) Georgian | 15) Lakehead | 22) Smiths Falls |
| 2) Belleville | 9) Georgina | 16) North Bay | 23) Sudbury District |
| 3) Capreol | 10) Glengarry | 17) North Channel | 24) Twin Bridges |
| 4) CMHA Durham | 11) Health Zone | 18) North Muskoka | 25) VON-Saugeen Shores |
| 5) Lakeshore | 12) HF Connecting Health | 19) Northern Neighbours | 26) Waterloo Region |
| 6) Emery-Keelesdale | 13) Huronia | 20) Ottawa | 27) West Parry Sound |
| 7) Essex County | 14) Ingersoll | 21) Peterborough 360 | |

What Services Do NPLCs Provide to Patients?

Patients who register with a NPLC will have access to comprehensive primary health care. Clinics provide care when patients are ill as well as a range of health services that help individuals and families maintain or improve their overall health. Typical of other primary care delivery models programs and services include annual physicals, episodic illness care, falls prevention programs for older persons, immunizations, smoking cessation, injury prevention and monitoring and management of chronic diseases such as diabetes, arthritis, asthma, heart disease and mental health conditions.

Nurse Practitioner-Led Clinics

In addition to nurse practitioners and collaborating physicians, other professionals on the clinic's team may include:

- ✓ Registered Nurses
- ✓ Registered Practical Nurses
- ✓ Registered Dietitians
- ✓ Registered Social workers
- ✓ Health Promoters
- ✓ Mental Health workers
- ✓ Pharmacists
- ✓ Occupational Therapists
- ✓ Physiotherapists
- ✓ & Other Health Care Providers

Visit npao.org to find an NPLC near you!

NPLCA

Team-Based Care

Understanding how Nurse Practitioners (NPs) contribute to team-based care is crucial for optimizing healthcare delivery across the diverse settings in which NPs practice.

What is Team-Based Care?

Team-based care is a collaborative effort that empowers healthcare professionals to coordinate their skills & expertise to improve patient outcomes.



To be truly effective, healthcare teams must be structured around the needs of patients, rather than centered around individual providers.

The Role of NPs

NPs are trained with a holistic, patient-centered approach that emphasizes collaboration & coordination across healthcare disciplines.

This positions them as key members of healthcare teams & enables them to serve as highly effective team leaders.



NP Roles in Team-Based Care

NPs work in various forms of team-based care, from sole practices within the greater health system to collaborative roles in multidisciplinary teams.



Health Systems Approach

NPs use a health systems approach to team-based care

NPs actively collaborate with other healthcare professionals & specialists through referrals, consultations, & care coordination.



NPs participate directly within multidisciplinary teams. This ranges from working autonomously contributing to a shared treatment plan or in a more collaborative manner where there is shared decision-making.

NPs collaborate & pull together necessary team members to improve efficiency & ensure safe, high-quality timely access to care.

NPs foster team cohesion & drive patient-centered decisions, ensuring care remains responsive to a patient's evolving needs.

While traditional models have often placed physicians in leadership roles, NPs have consistently demonstrated that they are equally capable of leading healthcare teams & delivering high-quality, patient-centered outcomes.



Patient-Centered Care

Funding Models



Recognizing the diversity in NP practice highlights the need for funding models that support all NPs, regardless of their location or area of practice.

Utilizing the skills & expertise of NPs effectively within team-based care will continue to support & strengthen a stronger healthcare system that is built around patients.



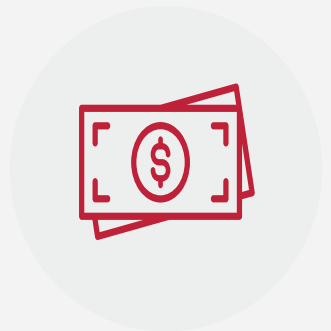


NPAO's Top 4 Advocacy Points



Flexible Funding Models for Enhanced Integration

NPAO Advocates for accelerating the creation of multiple flexible funding models to facilitate the appropriate integration of NPs across the healthcare system & within healthcare teams.



Expedited Compensation for Professional Equity and Retention

NPAO is requesting urgent reforms to compensation practices to ensure NPs are remunerated fairly for their advanced education, training, expertise, and level of responsibility.



NPAO's Top 4 Advocacy Points



Elevating NPs as Healthcare Leaders

NPAO advocates for a shift in focus from viewing NPs as clinicians only, to recognizing them as healthcare leaders, leveraging their expertise to drive system improvements, patient outcomes, & organizational effectiveness.



Enhanced Data Collection For Outcome Improvement

NPAO advocates for enhanced data collection & analysis of NP services to better understand utilization, contributions, & outcomes.