

Integrating and Empowering Ontario's Nurse Practitioners



At a time when there is a shortage of primary care providers, Nurse Practitioners (NP) present an opportunity for Governments to close the many gaps in our healthcare system.

Nurse Practitioners have the ability to provide the majority of care and services the average Ontarian requires, including assessing, diagnosing, treating, and monitoring a wide range of health problems, and consulting and collaborating with other health care professionals to meet patient needs.

Nurse Practitioners are registered nurses with advanced university education who provide a full range of health care services to individuals, families, and communities.

Regulated by the College of Nurses of Ontario, NPs must meet rigorous requirements to maintain ongoing registration.

Nurse Practitioners work within all corners of health care across Ontario including hospitals, community-based clinics, and Nurse Practitioner-Led Clinics (NPLCs) and work in partnership with physicians, nurses, social workers, mental health professionals, and pharmacists to deliver the standard of care Ontarians deserve.

Nurse Practitioners are authorized to perform the following:

- Complete comprehensive health history and assessment
- Diagnosis illness and injuries
- Provides treatment plans
- Orders and interprets diagnostic tests
- Prescribes and manages medication, including controlled drugs and substances
- Provides counseling and education
- Refers clients to other health care professionals and specialists as necessary
- Order and interpret all laboratory tests
- Admit, treat, and discharge patients from hospitals
- Provide Palliative Care and Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD)
- Collaborates with physicians and other members of the health care team as necessary

Our Asks

1. Integrate NPs better within health care to improve access for Ontarians

In order to maximize the skillset Nurse Practitioners (NPs) offer, better integration into the healthcare system is required. Currently, patients are not enrolled or rostered to their NP health care provider, nor is the patient level health care data captured by current systems in Ontario. Ensuring seamless referrals and continuous care to patients is a standard of care all Ontarians deserve. Additionally, there is one funding model for Nurse Practitioners in Ontario, that creates barriers for fully realizing their potential in a number of healthcare settings. We need more flexible funding models to

better integrate Nurse Practitioners across the healthcare continuum..

Nurse Practitioners continue to provide vital services to Ontarians, offering the majority of medical services most patients require on a day-to-day basis.

Building a health care system focused on team-based, primary care is necessary for so many communities, particularly in Northern Ontario. NPs can make an incredibly valuable contribution if properly integrated and included as a valued community healthcare resource.

2. Increase patient access to Nurse Practitioner-Led Clinics (NPLCs)

Nurse Practitioners are consistently filling gaps in Ontario's health care system, specifically in primary care settings, and providing their wide array of comprehensive and team-based services across the province. NPLCs are a major success for their patients who are receiving timely, quality care. With 25 successful clinics already in place across Ontario,

we believe Nurse Practitioners can serve even more communities in the future.

We ask the Ontario Government to increase the number of Nurse Practitioner-Led Clinics in Ontario from the current cap of 25 to ensure more access to healthcare services for the people of Ontario.

3. Expand NP education for future practitioners

Nurse Practitioners have received additional graduate experience and training to significantly expand their scope of practice beyond a registered nurse (RN). The skills and training Nurse Practitioners receive is an invaluable addition to our hospitals and community care clinics, which is why we want to grow the

profession to increase the capacity for care.

We can equip the next generation with the tools, training, and skills necessary to support the future of healthcare in our province by increasing the number of seats available in NP programs in Ontario.

About NPAO

The Nurse Practitioners' Association of Ontario (NPAO) was founded in 1973 to advance the Nurse Practitioner profession across all health care sectors in Ontario. NPAO is the only organization in Ontario exclusively dedicated to serving the needs of the Nurse Practitioner profession.