

## Scope of Practice for Nurse Practitioners

### Professional Role

Nurse practitioners (NPs) are licensed, independent practitioners who practice in ambulatory, acute and long-term care as primary and/or specialty care providers. NPs assess, diagnose, treat, and manage acute episodic and chronic illnesses. NPs are experts in health promotion and disease prevention. They order, conduct, supervise, and interpret diagnostic and laboratory tests, prescribe pharmacological agents and non-pharmacologic therapies, as well as teach and counsel patients, among other services.

As licensed, independent clinicians, NPs practice autonomously and in coordination with health care professionals and other individuals. They may serve as health care researchers, interdisciplinary consultants, and patient advocates. NPs provide a wide-range of health care services to individuals, families, groups and communities.

### Education

NPs are advanced practice registered nurses who obtain graduate education, post-master's certificates and doctoral degrees. Educational preparation provides NPs with specialized knowledge and clinical competency which enable them to practice in various health care settings, make differential diagnoses, manage and initiate treatment plans and prescribe medications and treatment. National NP education program accreditation requirements and competency-based standards ensure that NPs are equipped to provide safe, high-quality patient care from the point of graduation. Clinical competency and professional development are hallmarks of NP education.

### Accountability

The autonomous nature of NP practice requires accountability to the public for delivery of high-quality health care. NP accountability is consistent with an ethical code of conduct, national certification, periodic peer review, clinical outcome evaluation, and evidence of continued professional development.

### Responsibility

The patient-centered nature of the NP role requires a career-long commitment to meet the evolving needs of society and advances in health care science. NPs are responsible to the public and adaptable to changes in health care. As leaders in health care, NPs combine the roles of provider, mentor, educator, researcher, and administrator. NPs take responsibility for continued professional development, involvement in professional organizations, and participation in health policy activities at the local, state, national and international levels. Five decades of research affirms that NPs provide safe, high-quality care.

## The Voice of the Nurse Practitioner®

### There are more than 270,000 nurse practitioners (NPs) licensed in the U.S. <sup>1</sup>

- More than 26,000 new NPs completed their academic programs in 2016-2017<sup>2</sup>
- 99.1% of NPs have graduate degrees <sup>3</sup>
- 87.1% of NPs are certified in an area of primary care, and 72.6% of all NPs deliver primary care <sup>3</sup>
- 82.9% of full-time NPs are accepting Medicare patients and 80.2% are accepting Medicaid patients <sup>3</sup>
- 41.7% of full-time NPs hold hospital privileges; 11.7% have long-term care privileges <sup>3</sup>
- 95.7% of NPs prescribe medications, and those in full-time practice write an average of 20 prescriptions per day <sup>3</sup>
- NPs hold prescriptive privileges, including controlled substances, in all 50 states and D.C.
- In 2018, the mean, full-time base salary for NPs was \$105,903 <sup>3</sup>
- The majority of NPs (57.4%) see three or more patients per hour <sup>3</sup>
- Malpractice rates remain low; only 1.1% have been named as primary defendant in a malpractice case <sup>3</sup>
- NPs have been in practice an average of 10 years <sup>3</sup>
- The average age of NPs is 49 years <sup>3</sup>

### DISTRIBUTION, TOP PRACTICE SETTING AND CLINICAL FOCUS AREA BY AREA OF NP CERTIFICATION <sup>3</sup>

Certification*	Percent of NPs	Top Practice Setting	Top Clinical Foci
Family^	66.9	Hospital Outpatient Clinic (13.5%)	Primary Care (37.7%)
Adult^	12.0	Hospital Outpatient Clinic (17.9%)	Primary Care (17.4%)
Adult-Gerontology Primary Care^	6.0	Hospital Outpatient Clinic (14.4%)	Primary Care (25.5%)
Acute Care	4.8	Hospital Inpatient Unit (50.8%)	Cardiology (16.9%)
Pediatrics-Primary Care^	4.0	Hospital Outpatient Clinic (31.1%)	Primary Care (51.6%)
Adult-Gerontology Acute Care	3.1	Hospital Inpatient Unit (53.6%)	Critical Care (16.4%)
Women's Health^	2.7	Private Group Practice (23.6%)	OB/GYN (66.5%)
Psychiatric/Mental Health-Family	2.1	Psych/Mental Health Facility (24.2%)	Psychiatric (67.6%)
Psychiatric/Mental Health	2.0	Psych/Mental Health Facility (28.7%)	Psychiatric (66.2%)
Gerontology^	1.8	Long-Term Care Facility (20.5%)	Primary Care (31.4%)

\* NPs may be certified in more than one area

^ Primary Care Focus

Updated January 2019

<sup>1</sup> AANP National Nurse Practitioner Database, 2019

<sup>2</sup> American Association of Colleges of Nursing. (2018) 2017-2018 Enrollment and Graduations in Baccalaureate and Graduate Programs in Nursing. Washington D.C.: AACN.

<sup>3</sup> 2018 AANP National Nurse Practitioner Sample Survey

# NURSE PRACTITIONERS

NPs are the providers of choice for millions of Americans. NPs evaluate patients, diagnose, write prescriptions and bring a comprehensive perspective to health care.



**NP: Your Partner in Health**

With a track record of **quality** health care delivery for nearly half a century ...

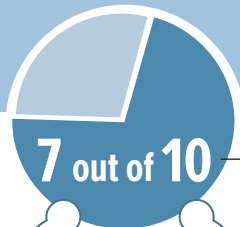
and a growing need for **health care providers**, especially in primary care ...

**nurse practitioners are a clear solution** for patient-centered, accessible health care.

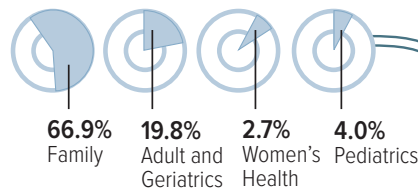
## PRIMARY CARE FOCUS

NPs are choosing primary care more than physicians and physician assistants. In 2018, more than 87% of NPs were prepared in primary care programs, while only 8% of physicians entered a primary care residency.

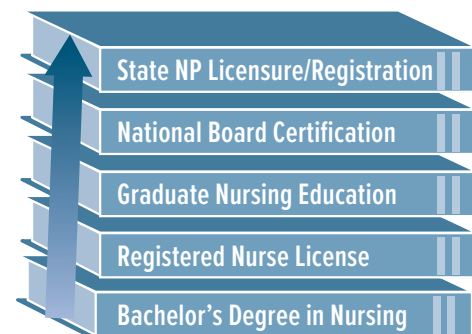
MORE THAN **87%** PREPARED IN PRIMARY CARE



## AREA OF PRIMARY CARE PREPARATION



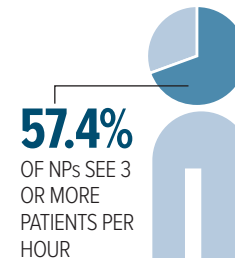
## REQUIREMENTS FOR PRACTICE



**6+** YEARS OF ACADEMIC AND CLINICAL PREPARATION

**NPs AT A GLANCE**

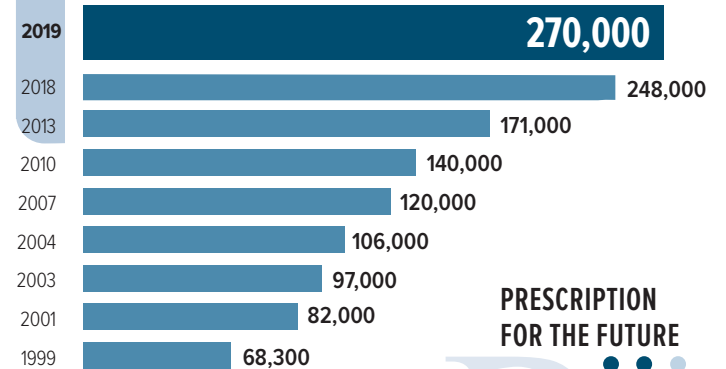
- More than **5 decades** of improving patient access and quality care
- Estimated annual patient visits exceed **1.06 billion**
- Prescribe medications in all **50 states** and D.C.



An increase in the overall population, aging baby boomers and number of individuals living with chronic disease will drive the need for robust primary care access.

## INCREASING IN NUMBER

The number of nurse practitioners continues to grow rapidly.



## NPs BY THE NUMBERS

- 83%** accept Medicare
- 80%** accept Medicaid
- 87%** accept Private Insurance
- 77%** accept Uninsured

## PRESCRIPTION FOR THE FUTURE



**2 out of 3** patients support legislation for greater access to NP services