Nurse Practitioner Facts & Q&A

Question: What is a Nurse Practitioner?

Answer: In Prince Edward Island Nurse practitioners are master's prepared autonomous health professionals who provide essential healthcare services grounded in professional, ethical and legal standards. Nurse practitioners integrate their in-depth knowledge of advanced nursing practice and theory, health management, health promotion, disease/injury prevention, and other relevant biomedical and psychosocial theories to provide comprehensive health services. Nurse practitioners work in collaboration with their clients and other health-care providers in the provision of high-quality patient-centred care. They work with diverse client populations in a variety of contexts and practice settings. [Read more](#)

Nurse Practitioner Fact

Question: Did you know that there are close to 5,000 solutions to the primary health care shortage facing Canada today?

Answer: Yes - there are over 4,800 nurse practitioners licensed in Canada, and Nurse Practitioners have been providing primary care for close to 50 years. There are 38 Nurse Practitioners on PEI.

Nurse Practitioners are proven, expert, patient-centred clinicians, and they are the health care providers of choice for many people because of their unique combination of medical and nursing expertise and skills.

Nurse Practitioners diagnose and treat acute and chronic conditions such as diabetes, high blood pressure, infections and injuries; they order, perform, interpret and supervise diagnostic tests such as lab work and x-rays; and they prescribe medications and other treatments. In addition, Nurse Practitioners partner with their patients, providing health education and counselling, thus guiding patients to make smarter health and lifestyle choices, which ultimately may lead to reduced health care costs.

Nurse Practitioner Fact

Question: Why should I want to see a Nurse Practitioner for my health care?

Answer: Here are just a few reasons:

• Nurse Practitioners have been shown to provide safe, comprehensive, and cost-effective health care services.

• Nurse Practitioners place a significant focus on teaching patients about their health conditions and treatment recommendations.

• Nurse Practitioners listen to patients and strive to understand how their health problems are affecting them.

• Patients of Nurse Practitioners report very high satisfaction with the care they receive.

• Nurse Practitioners can improve access to health care.

• Nurse Practitioners are also known for their ability to communicate, teach and counsel patients and families in a variety of settings.

Nurse Practitioner Fact

Question: Do I need a family Doctor too?

Answer: Nurse Practitioners can complete comprehensive physical assessments, monitor growth and development of babies and children and teens, and can take care of most illnesses and conditions. If there are complex health problems or something beyond the knowledge, skills or abilities of a Nurse Practitioner, the Nurse Practitioner can refer you on to the appropriate health care provider. Nurse Practitioners want each patient to get the best care possible, and sometimes that means the patient needs to be seen by a physician. And in other cases, the Nurse Practitioner may continue to care for a patient but in partnership with a physician and/or other health care professional.

Nurse Practitioner Fact

Question: Are you looking for an experienced health care provider - one who spends time with you and offers clinical expertise with a holistic approach?

Answer: Look no further than your local nurse practitioner. More and more people are choosing nurse practitioners (NPs) as their primary, acute and/or specialty health care provider.

Nurse Practitioners partner with their patients - assisting them in making better lifestyle and health care decisions. Nurse Practitioners practice in community, hospitals, long term care and more. Nurse Practitioners are different from other health care providers - they focus on the whole person when treating specific health problems, and they educate their patients on the effects those problems will have on them, their loved ones and their communities.

Find out for yourself how a Nurse Practitioner can be your partner in health. Contact the PEI Nurse Practitioner Association to find a Nurse Practitioner in your area. You'll be glad you did.

Nurse Practitioner Fact

Question: Do you know where to turn when your child is sick? When you're planning a family? For health education? When your parents need care?

Answer: Turn to a nurse practitioner. A Nurse Practitioner diagnoses, treats, prescribes and manages medications and treatments and provides a wide range of preventive and acute health care services to individuals of all ages.

Contact the PEI Nurse Practitioner Association to find a Nurse Practitioner in your area. You'll be glad you did.

Nurse Practitioner Fact

Question: What can Nurse Practitioners do?

Answer: Nurse Practitioners can:

- autonomously diagnose and treat illnesses,

- perform comprehensive physicals (check-ups), and take care of illnesses,

- treat your acute or chronic condition,

- order blood work, x-rays and other diagnostic tests,

- screen for health problems,

- manage chronic diseases like asthma, diabetes, hypertension and high cholesterol,

- monitor the health of babies, children, adults, and the elderly, and treat their illnesses should they get sick,

- take care of patients in nursing homes, or in specialty clinics,

- prescribe medications

- refer you to specialists for consultation

Nurse Practitioner Fact

Question: Does your health care provider examine, diagnose, prescribe, treat, counsel and educate – all in a way that is caring and dependable for you and your family?

Answer: Nurse Practitioners do all this and more! Nurse Practitioners are dedicated professionals who provide high-quality, cost-effective, personalized health care to diverse populations in rural and urban settings.

Contact the PEI Nurse Practitioner Association to find a Nurse Practitioner in your area. You'll be glad you did.

Nurse Practitioner Fact

At one point or another in our lives we all find ourselves in need of health care assistance.

Question: Did you know that a Nurse Practitioner can examine, diagnose, prescribe, treat, counsel and educate you about health care needs?

Answer: Nurse Practitioners provide compassionate, high quality health care for individuals and families – people of all ages.

Contact the [PEI Nurse Practitioner Association](#) to find a Nurse Practitioner in your area. You'll be glad you did.

Nurse Practitioner Fact

Question: Where can I find Nurse Practitioners?

Answer: Currently, most Nurse Practitioners work in Primary Care but more and more are beginning to appear in specialized community and clinic settings, like Geriatrics, Mental Health, Oncology, and Long- Term Care. You can also find a list of Nurse Practitioners on the College of Registered Nurses of Prince Edward Island [(CRNPEI)](#) website under [NP Directory](#). On the CRNPEI NP directory you will find a list of all Nurse Practitioners who are licensed to practice on PEI. It will also include where they work as well as their work phone number.