

NURSE PRACTITIONERS – Untapped Resource

NURSE PRACTITIONERS (NPs) IMPROVE TIMELY ACCESS TO HIGH-QUALITY, COST-EFFECTIVE CARE in a broad range of health-care models. Through their practice and collaboration with other health-care providers, NPs reduce pressure on the health-care system.¹

Education

Minimum 6 years of academic training plus clinical experience



Baccalaureate degree in nursing



RN licence/registration



Graduate NP education



NP licence/registration

93%

of Canadians

are confident that NPs can meet their day-to-day health needs²

Number of Canadians receiving primary care from an NP:

3 million

Estimated 800 patients per NP³

AUTONOMOUS ROLES FOR NPs:



PERFORM PHYSICAL EXAMS



ORDER TESTS



DIAGNOSE & TREAT ILLNESSES



WRITE PRESCRIPTIONS



ADMIT / DISCHARGE



PROVIDE REFERRALS

IMPACT

IMPROVED ACCESS TO CARE⁴



Decreased appointment wait times by offering same-day appointments for urgent patients or **within 3 days**⁵

20%

reduction in emergency department admissions from long term care⁶

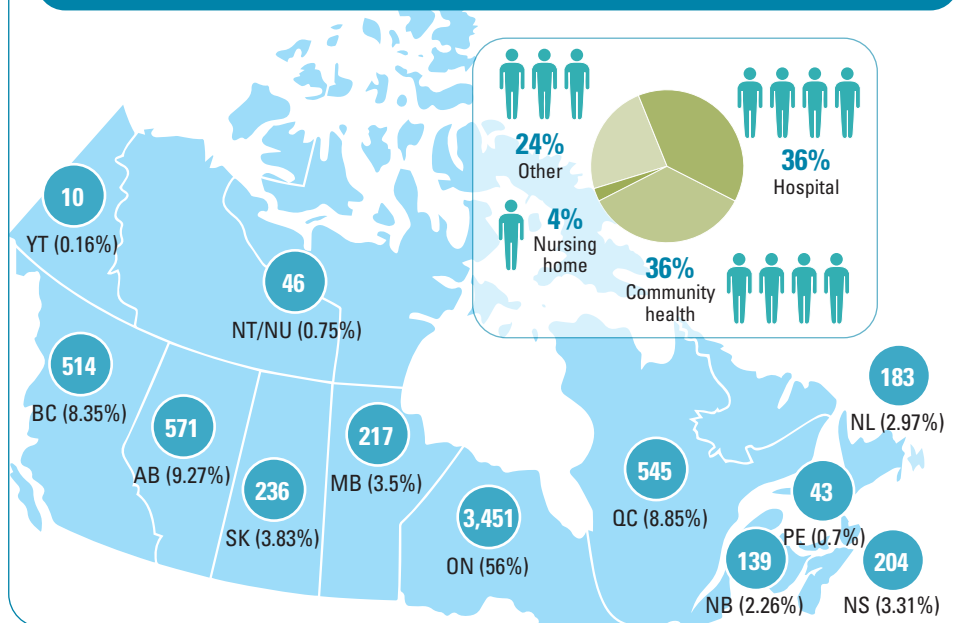
24%

increase in family satisfaction with quality of care⁷

55%

reduction in the use of multiple medications⁸

WHERE DO THEY WORK?⁹



1960s

Begin practising to increase the quality of health care in northern and underserved locations



2006

1,162 NPs; Canadian Nurse Practitioner Initiative formed

2012

Federal government passes *New Classes of Practitioners Regulations*, granting additional prescribing authority for controlled drugs



1997

Becomes a regulated profession to address the increasing demand for primary health care



2009

New regulations broaden scope of practice

2019

6,159 NPs



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¹ Canadian Nurses Association. (2017). *The nurse practitioner* [Position statement]. Ottawa: Author. ² Nanos. (2016). Canadians' opinions on home healthcare and nurses. (Nanos Polling Series 2016-854). Ottawa, Canada. ³ Martin-Misener, R., Donald, F., Kilpatrick, K., Bryant-Lukosius, D., Rayner, J., Landry, V., Viscardi, V., & McKinlay, R. J. (2015). *Benchmarking for nurse practitioner patient panel size and comparative analysis of nurse practitioner pay scales: Update of a scoping review*. Retrieved from https://fhs.mcmaster.ca/ccapnr/documents/np_panel_size_study_updated_scoping_review_report.pdf ⁴ Sangster-Gormley, E., Griffith, J., Schreiber, R., Feddema, A., Boryki, E., & Thompson, J. (2015). Nurse practitioners changing health behaviours: One patient at a time. *Nursing Management*, 22(6), 26-31. ⁵ Roots, A., & MacDonald, M. (2014). Outcomes associated with nurse practitioners in collaborative practice with general practitioners in rural settings in Canada: A mixed methods study. *Human Resources for Health*, 12, 2-11. ⁶ Klaassen, K., Lamont, L., & Krishnan, P. (2009). Setting a new standard of care in nursing homes. *Canadian Nurse*, 105(9), 24-30. ⁷ Ibid. ⁸ Canadian Institute for Health Information. (2020). *Nursing in Canada, 2019 – Data Tables*. Retrieved from <https://www.cihi.ca/en/nursing-in-canada-2019> © CANADIAN NURSES ASSOCIATION and the CNA flame design are registered trademarks of the Canadian Nurses Association. © Copyright 2020 Canadian Nurses Association. June 2020