

Career Profile NURSE PRACTITIONER

What is a Nurse Practitioner – Career Description/Scope

A nurse practitioner (NP) is a Registered Nurse with advanced university education who provides personalized, quality health care to patients. Ontario Nurse Practitioners provide a full range of health care services to individuals, families and communities in a variety of settings including hospitals.

Education Requirements to Work in Ontario

- Registered Nurse who has completed the Primary Health Care Nurse Practitioner Program Certificate or Masters Degree in Nursing with a Nurse Practitioner designation

Nurse Practitioner Practice Requirements

To practice in Ontario, Nurse Practitioners must be registered with the College of Nurses of Ontario and perform the following requirements:

- Entry to Practice
 - National Nurse Practitioner Exam
- Ongoing
 - Liability insurance with \$5,000,000 coverage
 - Annual Quality Assurance Program participation

How does a Nurse Practitioner Practice at TBRHSC?

- Works to scope of practice as outlined by various legislation and authorities including:
 - College of Nurses of Ontario
 - Regulated Health Professions Act
 - Nursing Act
 - Public Hospitals Act
- Works under controlled acts, and through direct orders or medical directives

What does a Nurse Practitioner Do?

NPs manage and provide care for both inpatient and outpatient populations, collaborating and consulting with Physician colleagues and the interprofessional team as needed to address patient care needs. Treatment and discharge planning is one of several components within a comprehensive plan of care that is developed by NPs in consultation with the interprofessional team in the hospital setting.

The NPs responsibilities may also include:

- Comprehensive care planning, treatment and assessment of readiness for discharge
- Plan to transfer care to the right provider, at the right time, to the right place
- Development and communication of the discharge plan with patients, families and the inter-professional team

- Communication of transfer of accountability to another care setting / care provider or coordination of care services in the community
- Medication reconciliation

Web Resources

- College of Nurses of Ontario www.cno.org
- Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario www.rnao.ca
- Federation of Health Regulatory Colleges of Ontario www.regulatedhealthprofessions.on.ca
- Public Hospitals Act www.e-laws.gov.on.ca
- Nurse Practitioners' Association of Ontario www.npao.org