



NURSE PRACTITIONERS

In what states can nurse practitioners prescribe?

Nurse Practitioners (NPs) are documented as safe, high-quality health care providers, and have varying degrees of prescriptive authority in all 50 United States.

Can anyone see a nurse practitioner?

Yes. People interested in seeing a NP can ask their current health care provider if a NP works in that office, and can ask for an appointment to meet the NP.

What is the nurse practitioner's relationship with the physician?

NPs practice in collaboration with a physician, which means that the collaborating physician agrees to accept referrals from the NP and will be available for consultation as needed.

How are nurse practitioners different from physician assistants?

While NPs and PAs often perform similar functions, there are important distinctions between these health care professionals. PAs work under the supervision of a physician. They must meet the entrance requirements of a PA program, but that does not necessarily include a background in medicine or nursing. In contrast, NPs may work independently or in collaboration with a physician and must have an RN license before being accepted into an NP educational program.

How do nurse practitioners feel about access to health care?

NPs believe that access to cost-effective, quality health care is a right of every American. Furthermore, individuals should have the right to access the health care provider of their choice. Legislatures at the national and state levels should advocate for individuals to have reasonable access to health care services. NPs should be active partners and providers of health care as they ensure delivery of quality health care in a cost-effective manner.