

Nurse Practitioners: Overview

Nurse Practitioners are expert nurses who work within broad areas of practice where they apply advanced nursing knowledge and diagnostic skills to provide healthcare. They are master's prepared health practitioners who work both autonomously and in collaboration with other health care professionals in teams.

Nurse Practitioners:

- Have advanced education, clinical training, competence and legal authority to practice beyond the level of a registered nurse.
- Provide care to promote health, prevent disease, treat illness and improve health outcomes. They are regulated, autonomous healthcare professionals.
- Provide a full range of assessment and treatment interventions. They assume full clinical responsibility for healthcare, including ordering diagnostic tests and prescribing medicines within their area of practice.
- Work with a specific patient group or community and may work across a variety of health settings and teams. This includes people's homes, community settings, hospitals, aged care facilities, and general practices.
- Work closely with families, whanau and communities and with other health practitioners.
- Primarily focus on clinical care, but they also demonstrate leadership as consultants, educators, managers and researchers. They actively participate in professional clinical activities and in local and national policy development.
- Are reimbursed for First Specialist Assessments and follow-ups in the same manner as medical consultant and registrars. They may receive capitation payment for first level and urgent care services delivered to enrolled people and be contracted to do 3 monthly resident assessments in ARRC settings in the same manner as general practitioners. They may also receive ACC payments, co-payments, and other income, including for General Medical Services (GMS).

Areas of Practice

- The area of practice for nurse practitioners may be:
 - *Broad* – For example, nurse practitioners provide a range of services in general practice, mental health, chronic disease management and aged care, or
 - *Specialised* – For example, nurse practitioners provide specialist expertise and manage care in areas that include diabetes, cardiac care, neo-natal care, urology, ophthalmology and palliative care.

Professional contribution:

- Practice from a nursing foundation where the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi guide relational practice that enables people, families and communities.
- Role model best practice and provide clinical leadership within the nursing profession and multi-disciplinary teams to enhance the health of populations.
- Think critically in order to advance nursing practice and health care outcomes.
- Operate within a nursing framework that ensures the centrality of the client in all aspects of practice.
- Evaluate health outcomes through quality improvement and scholarship.

Nurse Practitioner Registration

- To register in the Nurse Practitioner scope of practice, a candidate must:
 - Be registered with the Nursing Council of New Zealand in the registered nurse scope of practice; **and**
 - Have a minimum 4 years' experience in a specific area of practice; **and**
 - Complete an approved clinical master's degree programme that includes a demonstration of the competencies for advanced practice and prescribing applied within a defined area of the Nurse Practitioner scope of practice; **or**
 - The completion of an equivalent overseas clinically focused master's degree qualification which meets the requirements specified above; **and**
 - Pass an assessment by an approved panel against the Nursing Council's *Competencies for the Nurse Practitioner Scope of Practice*.

Training Programme Information

The following tertiary providers offer qualifications that fulfil all the pathway leading to registration as a Nurse Practitioner:

Provider	Master's leading to Nurse Practitioner
<i>Auckland University of Technology</i> School of Nursing and Midwifery	Master of Health Science in Advanced Nursing Practice Masters in Health Science
<i>Christchurch School of Medicine, University of Otago</i> Centre for Postgraduate Nursing Studies	Master of Health Sciences (Nursing – Clinical)
<i>Eastern Institute of Technology</i> Faculty of Health and Sport Science	Master of Nursing
<i>Massey University</i> School of Nursing	Master of Nursing
<i>University of Auckland</i> School of Nursing	Master of Nursing
<i>Victoria University of Wellington</i> The Graduate School of Nursing, Midwifery and Health	Master of Nursing Science
<i>Waikato Institute of Technology</i> School of Health	Master of Nursing

Source: Nursing Council of New Zealand, *Postgraduate nursing programmes approved by the Nursing Council* (updated January 2015), available URL: <http://www.nursingcouncil.org.nz/Education/Nurse-practitioner>

Further information can be obtained on the Nursing Council website, available URL:
<http://www.nursingcouncil.org.nz/Education>

Nurse Practitioner Statistics

Geographic distribution

Region	Total
Auckland	37
Bay of Plenty	9
Canterbury	15
Hawke's Bay	10
Manawatu-Wanganui	18
Nelson-Marlborough	2
Northland	7
Otago	8
Southland	4
Tairāwhiti	1
Taranaki	5
Waikato	15
Wellington	10
West Coast	1
Total	142

* Figures from Nursing Council for Nurse Practitioners listed as practising as at 31 March 2015.

Contribution to New Zealand Healthcare

- Nurse practitioners assist in alleviating the increased demand for health services driven by New Zealand's aging population and changes in the burden of disease.
- Nurse practitioners improve access to care for individuals and populations across the continuum from wellness, illness prevention and health education, to advanced care for people with complex acute and chronic co-morbid conditions.
- Nurse Practitioners are known as trusted, capable, responsive and safe practitioners able to partner with individuals, families, communities and organisations to improve health outcomes.
- Nurse Practitioners are experienced, skilled and knowledgeable leaders in case management, innovation and quality.
- They collaborate to provide care with colleagues from other disciplines in the healthcare team and supervise and mentor less experienced team members.

Nurse Practitioners ethnicity by employment setting

Employer	NZ European/ Pākeha	Other European	NZ Māori	Cook Island Māori	Fijian	Other Pacific	Asian	Other	All NPs
DHB (acute)	39	8	1	-	-	1	-	1	50
DHB (community)	23	7	6	-	1	1	2	3	43
DHB (other)	10	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	14
Educational Institution	11	5	2	-	-	-	-	-	18
Māori Health Service Provider	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	3
Primary Health Community	39	7	7	-	-	-	-	2	55
Private Hospital	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Rest Home/ Residential Care	1	3	-	-	-	-	1	1	6
Rural	5	2	3	-	-	-	-	2	12
Self Employed	7	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	13
Other	9	2	1	-	-	-	-	1	13
All settings	107	30	15	1	1	1	2	7	142