WHO IS A NURSE PRACTITIONER?

What NPs Do

NPs teach patients how to get healthy and stay healthy. They:

- provide physical examinations
- diagnose & treat of illnesses
- prescribe medications
- order and interpret laboratory tests
- educate patients about healthy lifestyle choices
- coordinate healthcare services

Specialty Areas

NPs can be certified to practice in a number of specialty areas, including:

- Acute Care
- Adult Health
- College health
- Community health
- Family Health
- Gerontology
- Holistic Nursing
- Neonatology
- Obstetrics & Gynecology
- Oncology
- Palliative Care
- Pediatrics
- Perinatology
- Psychiatry
- School Health
- Women's Health

A Nurse Practitioner (NP) is an RN who has earned a separate license as an NP through additional education and experience in a distinct specialty area of practice. Nurse practitioners may diagnose, treat, and prescribe for a patient's condition that falls within their specialty area of practice. NPs provide high quality health care services. Today, NPs are mainstream providers found in both primary and specialty care. Focusing on health promotion, education, and counseling as well as disease prevention, NPs assist their patients in making healthy choices. Increasingly, the public has grown to rely upon NPs to provide high quality, individualized care resulting in high levels of patient satisfaction.

Educational Requirements

NPs must have advanced educational and clinical training to practice, and must maintain their certification on an ongoing basis.

- NPs are required to be Registered Nurses
- NPs must graduate from an NYS-approved Nurse Practitioner program
- NPs must have a Master's Degree before sitting for the national certification exam.