NURSE PRACTITIONERS IN NSW

For further information visit:

www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au/
www.anmc.org.au
www.acnp.org.au

Emilie Russell, Emergency Nurse Practitioner

Glenda Mullen, Paediatric Emergency Nurse Practitioner

05/2011
A NP is a Registered Nurse (RN) experienced in their clinical specialty, educated at Masters level, and who is authorised by the Nurses and Midwives Board of Australia (NMBA) to provide patient care in an advanced and extended clinical role.

The clinical and academic education undertaken by NPs prepares them to expand the boundaries of nursing practice and to incorporate extensions to their clinical practice in order to deliver care at an advanced level. There are several ways in which the practice of NPs differs from traditional nursing models: such as:

- Performing advanced health assessments;
- Diagnosing health problems;
- Initiating and interpreting diagnostic investigations such as pathology and diagnostic imaging;
- Designing, implementing and monitoring therapeutic regimes in collaboration with patients, families / carers and other health professionals;
- Prescribing medications;
- Initiating and receiving appropriate referrals to and from other healthcare professionals.

Nurse Practitioners have provided health care around the world since the 1960s. The role developed in response to increasing demands on healthcare and the need to improve access to care, particularly in rural and remote areas. As a result, RNs have extended and advanced their nursing practice to meet these demands and this growth has been formalised with the development of the NP role. In addition, the role also enables clinicians to further their career while maintaining valuable expertise within the clinical setting.

Where do nurse practitioners practice?
NPs work with families, individuals and communities within a variety of health care settings including hospitals, community health settings and in private practice.

There is no limit to where NP services may be established. Currently there are NPs working in the following specialist areas;

- Emergency
- Aged Care
- General Practice
- Private practice
- Drug & Alcohol
- Medical & Surgical
- Rural & Remote
- Women’s Health
- Palliative Care
- Justice Health
- Community
- Mental Health
- Chronic & Complex care
- Paediatrics

Endorsement is separate to gaining employment as a NP. Once endorsed NPs are able to apply for NP positions within their specialty throughout NSW Health.

More information on the endorsement process can be obtained from the NMBA website.

Further information:
Principal Adviser
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(02) 9391 9490

Jane Currie, Emergency Nurse Practitioner

Chris Muller, Nurse Practitioner Adult Mental Health

What is a Nurse Practitioner (NP)?
A NP is a Registered Nurse (RN) experienced in their clinical specialty, educated at Masters level, and who is authorised by the Nurses and Midwives Board of Australia (NMBA) to provide patient care in an advanced and extended clinical role.

What does a nurse practitioner do?
NPs provide safe, high quality care in the assessment and management of patients. NPs aim to improve access to care for patients, address gaps in existing health care services and often provide a health care service where none currently exists. While autonomy enables NPs to deliver flexible and responsive care, working together with other health care professionals is an important part of NPs practice.

How do I become a Nurse Practitioner?
Experienced registered nurses who have become experts in their field of practice and wish to become a NP need to meet the endorsement requirements of the NMBA. These requirements include a relevant master’s degree and at least three years full time advanced practice experience (within the last six years) demonstrating they meet the NMBA National Competency Standards for the Nurse Practitioner (Australian Nursing and Midwifery Advisory Council).

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NSW appointed the first nurse practitioner (NP) in Australia in 2001. This number has been steadily increasing and NSW now has over 200 NP positions providing flexible and innovative models of care for a variety of communities.