



# POSITION STATEMENT ÉNONCÉ

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Nurses Association of New Brunswick • L'Association des infirmières et infirmiers du Nouveau-Brunswick

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## **NURSE PRACTITIONER**

Meeting the goals of a reformed health care system requires the expertise of professionals with specialized knowledge and skills. NANB believes that one solution to the problems of access, quality and cost of care is a restructuring of the existing health care system and more effective utilization of all health care personnel. The advanced practice role of nurse practitioner (NP) is a critical link in addressing the challenges facing health care in today's environment.

### **Definition**

A nurse practitioner is a registered nurse who meets the requirements for registration with the Nurses Association of New Brunswick for practice as a nurse practitioner. The nurse practitioner has completed a nurse practitioner program in primary health care and has advanced knowledge and clinical expertise in assessment, diagnosis and health care management. The nurse practitioner in primary health care is a generalist who offers comprehensive and continuous care to clients across the health continuum and throughout the client's lifespan. The client is defined as individual, family, groups and community. NP's provide comprehensive primary health care services including health promotion, disease and injury prevention, curative, rehabilitative and supportive services to individuals, families and communities in all health settings.

### **Scope of Practice**

The NP's role is grounded in advanced nursing practice. The NP demonstrates depth and breadth of knowledge, synthesis of data and use of complex skills and interventions. In addition, the NP role includes prescribing, ordering and interpreting screening and diagnostic tests, and diagnosing, treating and managing common acute and chronic illnesses. As a member of an interdisciplinary health team, the NP role is both autonomous and collaborative in nature.

### **Education**

The entry-level educational preparation for the NP is a master's of nursing degree from an approved nurse practitioner education program in primary health care.

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## Reference

Nurses Association of New Brunswick (2002). *Competencies and Standards of Practice for Nurse Practitioners in Primary Health Care*. Fredericton: Author.  
[http://www.nanb.nb.ca/pdf\\_e/Publications/General\\_Publications/CompetenciesStandardsPracticeNP2.pdf](http://www.nanb.nb.ca/pdf_e/Publications/General_Publications/CompetenciesStandardsPracticeNP2.pdf)