

NURSE PRACTITIONERS IN NEW ZEALAND: THE FACTS

Nurse Practitioners in New Zealand: Key Dates

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|----------------------------|---|
| October 2000 | NCNZ Forum - NP endorsement proposals debated. |
| March 2001 | NCNZ <i>The Nurse Practitioner</i>[™]: <i>responding to health needs in NZ</i> published. |
| June 2002 | Nurse Practitioner Advisory Committee of New Zealand (NPAC-NZ) established. |
| Mid 2002 | MoH <i>Nurse Practitioners in New Zealand</i> published. |
| October 2002 | MoH Nurse Practitioner Roadshow. |
| 5 November 2002 | NZNO Advancing Nursing Practice Conference, Christchurch. |
| 6-7 November 2002 | Nurse Practitioner Conference, Auckland. |
| 27-28 February 2003 | CoNA Forum to Progress the Nurse Practitioner Role, Palmerston North. |
| April 2003 | Nurse Practitioner Mentor System established. |
| February 2004 | Ministry of Health Advisory Group established. |
| October 2005 | Ministerial NP Employment and Development Working Party established. |



What is a Nurse Practitioner?

The NCNZ defines a NP as:

Nurse practitioners are registered nurses with Masters degrees and at least four years experience working in their chosen clinical area. They may have worked initially in a variety of clinical areas and then decided to specialise in one area of nursing practice. Nurse practitioners will have completed at least five years of academic study to gain their Masters level qualification. Registered nurses must meet Nursing Council assessment criteria and competencies before the Council will recognise them as nurse practitioners¹.

Nurse practitioners are expert clinicians who work within a specific area of practice incorporating advanced knowledge and skills into their practice. They may work in ambulatory, acute and long-term care settings, providing nursing services to individuals, families, whānau, and groups.

Nurse practitioners are also leaders in their area of practice participating in the development of evidence-based practice, integrating theoretical and practice based knowledge to influence the development of nursing, health practice and policy at local and national levels.

¹ It is intended that the title 'Nurse Practitioner' will be protected by the Nursing Council and will only be able to be used by those who succeed in meeting Council requirements. *NCNZ The Nurse Practitioner: responding to health needs in NZ p10.*



NP Registration Criteria

- **Specified area of practice**
- **Minimum four years practice in specified area**
- **Approved Clinical Masters or equivalent**
- **Meeting the competencies**
- **Prepares a portfolio application**
- **Pays an application fee**



Nurse Practitioner Competencies

- **Articulates specific area of nursing practice and its advancement**
- **Shows expert practice working collaboratively across settings and within interdisciplinary environments**
- **Shows effective nursing leadership and consultancy**
- **Develops and influences health/socio-economic policies and practice at a local and national level**
- **Shows scholarly research inquiry into nursing practice**
- **Prescribes interventions, appliances treatments and authorises medicines within the area of practice (those seeking prescribing rights)**

(Please note: Competencies under review 2006)



Registration & Process

| APPLICATION WITH PORTFOLIO | DESK AUDIT | ASSESSMENT OF EDUCATIONAL EQUIVALENCE | PREPARATION FOR ASSESSMENT | PANEL ASSESSMENT | NURSING COUNCIL DECISION |
|--|--|---|---|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application completed • Submission of portfolio | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of portfolio for completeness • Liaison with applicant | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the applicant demonstrate equivalence? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of portfolio • Referee checks • Liaison within panel | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment interview • Deliberation and decision • Recommendation to Nursing Council | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council consideration and decision |
| Applicant | Council | Council | Panel | Panel | Nursing Council |

(NCNZ, 2002, NP Endorsement)



Nurse Practitioner Mentor System

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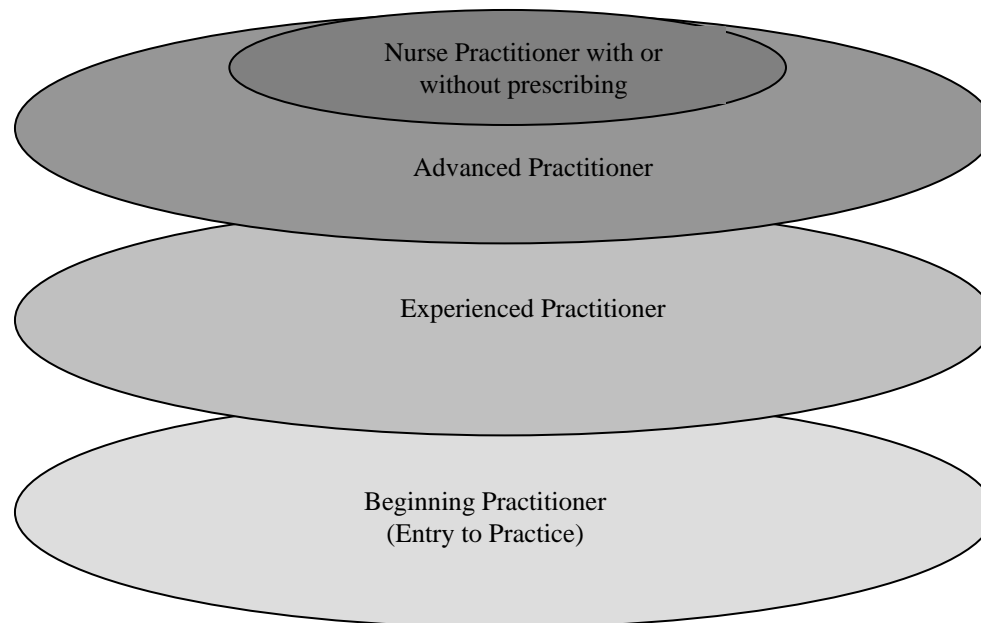
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How does the NP fit with other nursing roles?



Amended from NCNZ diagram.

The NP model in New Zealand

Model 1: Integrated nursing teams

A team of nurses and nurse practitioners provides, co-ordinates and manages health promotion and disease prevention across the continuum of care.

For example, integrated primary health care nursing teams working out of primary health organisations and providing risk assessments, first-contact care, case management of clients with chronic conditions, and services for whānau, hapū, iwi and Māori communities.

Model 2: Nurse consultancy

The nurse practitioner works independently and refers clients to other health professionals, where required. Collaborative practice arrangements and care decisions may also dominate.

For example, within hospital settings, between primary and secondary, and secondary and tertiary, health care services, or between non-government organisations. Provides leadership to nurses and referral to other disciplines.

Model 3: Independent practice

Nurse practitioners are self-employed and establish their own independent practices offering care and services direct to the public.

For example, nurse practitioners contract themselves to provide services to other agencies, hospitals, primary health organisations, non-government organisations, direct to clients.

Model 4: Nurse practitioner speciality services/clinic

The nurse practitioner is the recognised lead health professional within the health care team for establishing and managing speciality clinics/services for a particular health speciality and/or population group.

For example, pain management, anaesthetists, wound management, rehabilitation, disease management.

MoH, 2002, Nurse Practitioners in New Zealand, pg 11

Please note: Further models are emerging

