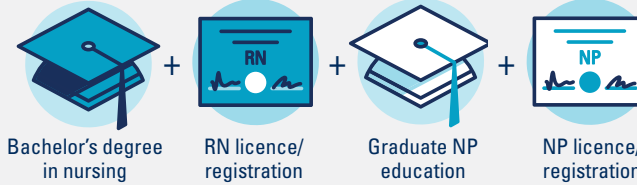


# NURSE PRACTITIONERS – Untapped Resource

NURSE PRACTITIONERS (NPs) IMPROVE TIMELY ACCESS TO HIGH-QUALITY, COST-EFFECTIVE CARE in a broad range of health-care models. Through their practice and collaboration with other health-care providers, NPs reduce pressure on the health-care system.<sup>1</sup>

## Education

6+ years of academic and clinical experience



**93%**  
of Canadians  
are confident that NPs can meet their day-to-day health needs<sup>2</sup>

Number of Canadians receiving primary care from an NP:  
**3 million**  
Estimated 800 patients per NP<sup>3</sup>

## AUTONOMOUS ROLES FOR NPs:

- PERFORM PHYSICAL EXAMS
- ORDER TESTS
- DIAGNOSE & TREAT ILLNESSES
- WRITE PRESCRIPTIONS
- ADMIT / DISCHARGE
- PROVIDE REFERRALS

## IMPACT

IMPROVED ACCESS TO CARE<sup>4</sup>



Decreased appointment wait times by offering same-day appointments for urgent patients or **within 3 days**<sup>5</sup>

**20%**

**reduction** in emergency department admissions from long term care<sup>6</sup>



**24%**

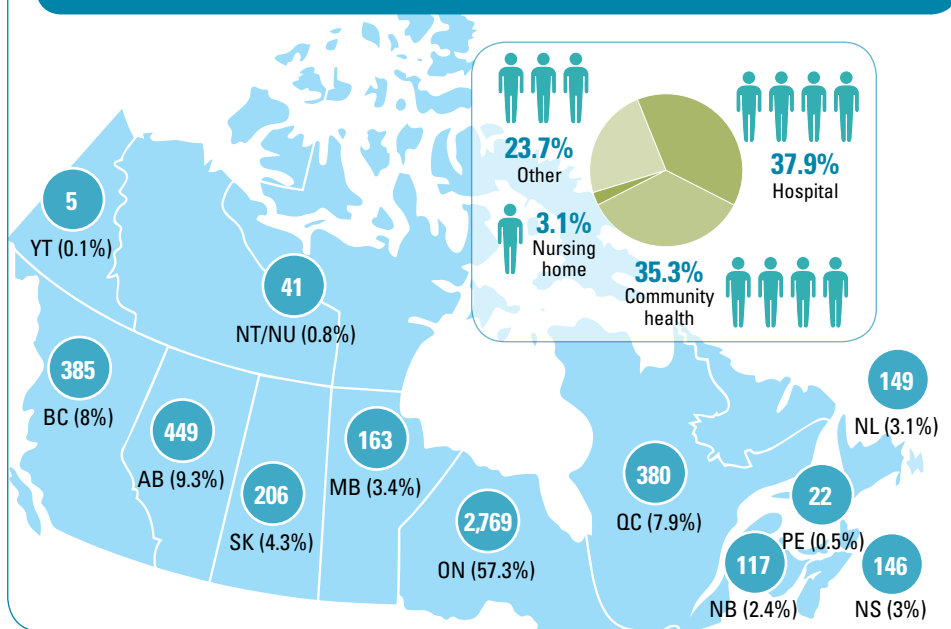
**increase** in family satisfaction with quality of care<sup>7</sup>

**55%**

**reduction** in the use of multiple medications<sup>8</sup>



## WHERE DO THEY WORK?<sup>9</sup>



**1960s**

Begin practising to increase the quality of health care in northern and underserved locations



**2006**

1,162 NPs; Canadian Nurse Practitioner Initiative formed

**2012**

Federal government passes *New Classes of Practitioners Regulations*, granting additional prescribing authority for controlled drugs



**1997**

Becomes a regulated profession to address the increasing demand for primary health care



**2009**

New regulations broaden scope of practice

**2016**

4,832 NPs



**CANADIAN NURSES ASSOCIATION**  
cna-aicc.ca/np

<sup>1</sup> Canadian Nurses Association. (2017). *The nurse practitioner* [Position statement]. Ottawa: Author. <sup>2</sup> Nanos. (2016). Canadians' opinions on home healthcare and nurses. (Nanos Polling Series 2016-854). Ottawa, Canada. <sup>3</sup> Martin-Misener, R., Donald, F., Kilpatrick, K., Bryant-Lukosius, D., Rayner, J., Landry, V., Viscardi, V., & McKinlay, R. J. (2015). *Benchmarking for nurse practitioner patient panel size and comparative analysis of nurse practitioner pay scales: Update of a scoping review*. Retrieved from [https://fhs.mcmaster.ca/ccapnr/documents/np\\_panel\\_size\\_study\\_updated\\_scoping\\_review\\_report.pdf](https://fhs.mcmaster.ca/ccapnr/documents/np_panel_size_study_updated_scoping_review_report.pdf) <sup>4</sup> Sangster-Gormley, E., Griffith, J., Schreiber, R., Feddema, A., Boryki, E., & Thompson, J. (2015). Nurse practitioners changing health behaviours: One patient at a time. *Nursing Management*, 22(6), 26-31. <sup>5</sup> Roots, A., & MacDonald, M. (2014). Outcomes associated with nurse practitioners in collaborative practice with general practitioners in rural settings in Canada: A mixed methods study. *Human Resources for Health*, 12, 2-11. <sup>6</sup> Klaassen, K., Lamont, L., & Krishnan, P. (2009). Setting a new standard of care in nursing homes. *Canadian Nurse*, 105(9), 24-30. <sup>7</sup> Ibid. <sup>8</sup> Ibid. <sup>9</sup> Canadian Institute for Health Information. (2017). Data tables: Registered nurses, 2016. Retrieved from <https://www.cihi.ca/en/regulated-nurses-2016> © CANADIAN NURSES ASSOCIATION and the CNA flame design are registered trademarks of the Canadian Nurses Association. © Copyright 2017 Canadian Nurses Association. September 2017