A nurse practitioner is an advanced practice registered nurse. NPs are trained to assess patient needs, order and interpret diagnostic and laboratory tests, diagnose disease, formulate and prescribe treatment plans. NP training covers basic disease prevention, coordination of care, and health promotion, but does not provide the depth of expertise needed to recognize more complex conditions.

The NP uses advanced problem solving and assessment skills to improve the health of patients or manage chronic conditions. They practice under the direction of physicians in most states but may practice independently in select settings with collaboration with the managing healthcare system. NPs usually specialize in fields such as geriatric, pediatrics, family medicine or psychiatric health. NPs are provide "primary, acute, chronic, and specialty care to patients of all ages", depending on their field of practice.

Certification is required for employment and licensure in the practice state.

Many practice opportunities are open for the NP. They may work in inpatient settings, clinics, and hospital specialty units.

The usual day for a NP begins with organizing/planning and mapping the day with assistive staff usually with a primary care focus.

- Chart review and patient planning with unit staff
- Conduct patient visits with consultation with physicians regarding prescriptions or procedures planned for the patient as indicated
- Document on patient charts
- Order diagnostic tests, X-rays, EKGs, Labs as indicated
- Suggest innovative solutions for wellness
- Help plan home care and suggest community resources for patients
- Teach patients about healthcare, primary prevention and disease prevention
- Suggest primary health care timelines for preventive screenings

Nurses must become maintain their RN license along with the fulfilling required hours of practice as a NP to maintain the Advanced Practice Registered Nurse licensure.