

Nurse Practitioners and Primary Care

It's a familiar scene: long waits at the doctor's office in crowded waiting rooms. But there's a way to avoid this and still get your check up! How? See an **NP (nurse practitioner)** instead.

NPs are an excellent **point of entry** health providers. They hold **advanced degrees** and must be **board certified**. So you're sure to get good care.

NPs provide a wide range of services. They conduct **physical exams** and **diagnose** illnesses. They **prescribe** treatment such as **physical therapy**. Many provide regular **immunizations** for children. Some even offer **counseling** services.

Though patients must see doctors for specialized care, nurse practitioners provide general healthcare without the wait.

Get ready!

1 Before you read the passage, talk about these questions.

- 1 What kind of jobs do nurse practitioners perform?
- 2 What qualifications must nurse practitioners hold?

Reading

2 Read the article from Healthy Living magazine. Then, mark the following statements as true (T) or false (F).

- 1 Patients are usually directed to NPs by point of entry health providers.
- 2 Nurse practitioners treat patients' physical and emotional needs.
- 3 Patients of NPs must visit a doctor's office to get shots..

Vocabulary

3 Match the words (1-5) with the definitions (A-E).

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> immunization | 4 <input type="checkbox"/> board certified |
| 2 <input type="checkbox"/> advanced degree | 5 <input type="checkbox"/> point of entry |
| 3 <input type="checkbox"/> physical therapy | |

- A a college degree higher than a bachelor's degree
- B having passed a test to document expertise in an area of medicine
- C treatment for an illness or injury by physical methods rather than the use of drugs
- D the administration of a medical substance to help protect a person against a disease
- E the first level of access to a system



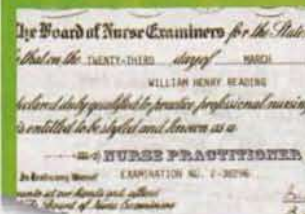
immunization



physical therapy



physical exam



board certified



nurse practitioner

4 Fill in the blanks with the correct words and phrases from the word bank.

Word BANK

- prescribe nurse practitioner
 diagnose counseling
 physical exam

- 1 Mark is in constant pain. He hopes the doctor can quickly _____ the problem.
- 2 When Linda conducts a(n) _____, she checks all areas of a person's body.
- 3 Peter examined his patient, he decided to _____ medication to reduce the pain.
- 4 Todd offers _____ services. Many people tell him about their problems.
- 5 Molly likes learning about medicine and helping people. She wants to be a _____ when she grows up.

- 5 Listen and read the article again. How can a patient avoid a long wait at the GP's?

Listening

- 6 Listen to a conversation between an interviewer and a NP. Choose the correct answers.

- What is the dialogue mostly about?
 - challenges of being an NP
 - the steps of a physical exam
 - procedures that the NP performs
 - common illnesses that the NP sees
- According to the dialogue, what service does the nurse practitioner NOT offer?
 - prescribing medications
 - offering counseling
 - performing immunizations
 - diagnosing illnesses

- 7 Listen again and complete the conversation.

Interviewer: Thanks for agreeing to 1 _____. I know you nurse practitioners get busy.

NP: It's my pleasure.

Interviewer: So, what kind of 2 _____ do you provide?

NP: Lots. I conduct 3 _____ and perform immunizations for children. I also offer counseling.

Interviewer: What patients do you have today?

NP: My next patient has an injury from a 4 _____. I'm giving him physical 5 _____.

Interviewer: Are there any limits to the care you provide?

NP: Well, I don't perform surgery. But I do 6 _____ illnesses.

Speaking

- 8 With a partner, act out the roles below based on Task 7. Then, switch roles.

USE LANGUAGE SUCH AS:

What kind of services do you provide?

My next patient has ...

Are there any limits to the care you provide?

Student A: You are an interviewer. And you are writing an article about NPs. Ask Student B questions to find out about:

- services
- today's patients
- limits to care

Student B: You are a nurse practitioner. Answer Student A's questions.

Writing

- 9 Use the conversation from Task 8 to fill out the interviewer's notes.

Article about NPs

Services Provided:

Conducts _____

Performs _____

Offers _____

Limits to Care:

Does not _____

INTERVIEW NOTES

