



December 13, 2021

Re: Recent online story "Nurse Practitioners 'bridging the gaps' in care"

Recently there was a news article with respect to Nurse Practitioners (NPs) bridging gaps between family physicians and the emergency room. This article, while well intentioned in terms of highlighting the role and expanded scope of NPs, was not able to provide the full context and clarity around the collaborative nature of the working relationship between NPs and family physicians. In response, our colleagues at the BC College of Family Physicians (BCCFP) [wrote a reply](#) in which they articulated similar concerns around this recent article.

Nurses and Nurse Practitioners of BC (NNPBC) and NNPBC's NP Council, fully support the messaging shared by the BC College of Family Physicians (BCCFP). The BCCFP notes, "There is a role for both nurse practitioners and family physicians to play in our health care system and we must stay focused on the bigger issue of supporting quality, evidence-based care for British Columbians."

NPs are highly qualified health care providers who diagnose, treat, and prescribe medications and provide fulsome primary care to patients across their life span. At present BC has roughly 750 NPs working across the province. NPs and family physicians work collaboratively to ensure the delivery of longitudinal team based primary care, focusing on providing quality health care for patients with the intention of improving health outcomes.

Health care is complex, and the needs of the population are multi-faceted and varied. The principles of patient-centred, team-based care allow for health care professions to come together to deliver comprehensive and holistic care for the benefit of the patient. The goal of any health care provider is to ensure that those we are privileged to serve receive the best care and that we work towards achieving optimal health outcomes.

Working together, in collaboration with our physician colleagues and all members of the health care team, supports the cohesive delivery and provision of primary health care at the community-level. This intentional team-based care approach strengthens our health care system and deepens our understanding of the health and wellness needs of our communities.