

The Evolution of Oncology Nurse Practitioners in NZ

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A little history lesson

- Internationally Nurse Practitioner (NP) is used to describe a variety of advanced practice nursing roles
- International Council of Nurses - Advanced Practice Registered Nurse - "a registered nurse who has acquired the expert knowledge base, complex decision-making skills and clinical competencies for expanded practice, the characteristics of which are shaped by the context and/or country in which s/he is credentialed to practice. A master's degree is recommended for entry level"(2015).

The U.S. surgeon general's report *Toward Quality in Nursing* predicts a national nursing shortage and recommends a national investigation of nursing education to determine how a baccalaureate or higher education can be available to more nurses.

1963

President Lyndon B. Johnson signs the Nurse Training Act, which supports the renovation and improvement of nurse training and teaching facilities, particularly to expand baccalaureate and other advanced nursing programs. Photo courtesy of the Barbara Bates Center for the Study of the History of Nursing, School of Nursing, University of Pennsylvania.

1964



1965

Public health nurse Loretta Ford (far left) and pediatrician Henry Silver (center in the group photo; Ford is far right) establish the first NP certificate program at the University of Colorado. Photo courtesy of the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus.

The American Nurses Association publishes a position paper, *Educational Preparation for Nurse Practitioners and Assistants to Nurses*—the first public statement of nursing education to endorse baccalaureate preparation as the minimum for professional nursing practice, as well as continued education training for NPs.

History continued

- NP's in over fifty countries
- Confusion and variability - title, role and responsibilities
- Credentials vary by country, most require master's degree
- US - profession is state-regulated, care provided by NPs varies - limited to education and credentials.
- Canada - NPs in primary healthcare and acute care who work in specialty areas.
- UK – Registered Advanced Nurse Practitioner – protected role.
- Australia – careful and strategic approach taken...to development and implementation of NP role.

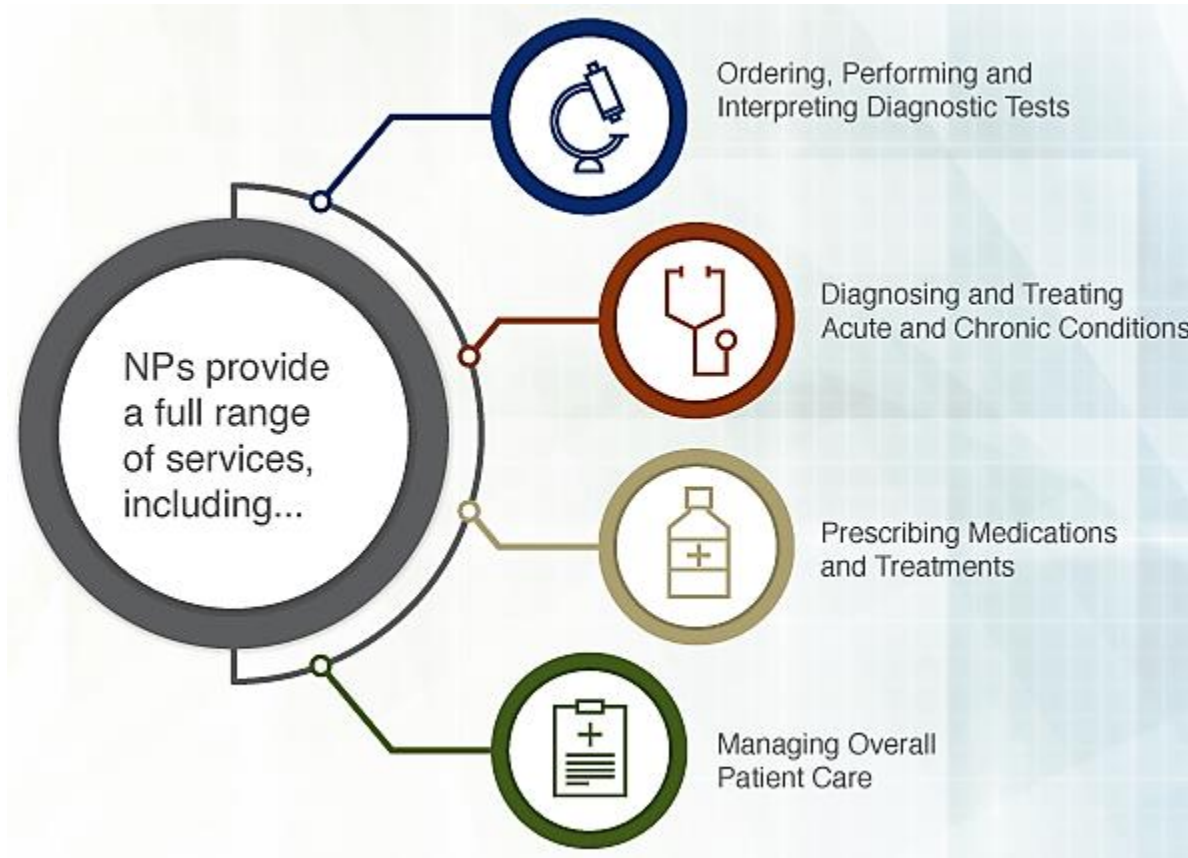
New Zealand

- Nursing Council NZ (NCNZ) - regulatory body
- 3 legal scopes of practice for nurses in NZ – enrolled nurse, registered nurse and nurse practitioner
- NP scope introduced in 2000
- 1st NP successful in 2001
- Prescribing rights initially a choice – component of all registrations since July 2014

NP scope of practice - NZ

- To qualify:
 - Clinical Masters — pharmacology, pathophysiology, advanced health assessment, advanced diagnostic and practice skills;
 - RN Registration with the NCNZ;
 - Minimum of four years of experience in an area of practice;
 - Submit a portfolio and pass an assessment against the NP competencies by Council approved panel.

What do NZ NP's do





REMOVING PRACTICE BARRIERS

- Challenges in NZ since NP inception:
 - Recognised funding for work done (primary care)
 - Recognition by government agencies e.g. ACC, WINZ
- Changes in legislation (omnibus bill – Health Practitioners Bill – replacing statutory references to Medical Practitioners): 8 changes proposed
- Changes to NCNZ NP Scope of Practice - streamlining



REMOVING PRACTICE BARRIERS

- In progress / barriers remain
- Special authority applications
- Insurance companies
- Recognition to order tests/investigations variable – importantly being recognised as responsible clinician for results
- Clinical trial involvement

NZ Oncology NPs

- In 2015 first NP working in oncology qualified
- Today 5 Oncology, 1 Haematology
- Lung, melanoma, colorectal
& across tumour streams



What Oncology NP's do

- Assesses and manages patient care, prescribe including treatment related drugs
- First Specialist Appointment clinics, follow up clinics, surveillance through to discharge – all patients – curative or palliative
 - Models of care differ, same recognition as SMO
 - Admitting rights
- Rural clinics – broad tumour stream base
- Triage/assessment units – mentorship/practice supervision
- Procedures - paracentesis

What do Oncology NP's do

- MDM's
- Clinical trials
- National cancer work
- NCNZ NP panel assessors
- HDC clinical experts (one day)
- Teach, support, mentor

Where to from here



April 2018 – 301 NZ NP's (doubled in 2 years) and growing!

- Structured training programme
- Quality care vs cheap medical care
- Demonstrating our worth
- Opportunities for enhancing patient care and improving access to care
- Future proofing/succession planning

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