

Nursing and Midwifery Council definition of advanced nurse practitioners (NMC, 2005)

Advanced nurse practitioners are highly experienced and educated members of the care team who are able to diagnose and treat your healthcare needs or refer you to an appropriate specialist if needed.

Advanced nurse practitioners are highly skilled nurses who can:

- take a comprehensive patient history
- carry out physical examinations
- use their expert knowledge and clinical judgment to identify the potential diagnosis
- refer patients for investigations where appropriate
- make a final diagnosis
- decide on and carry out treatment, including the prescribing of medicines, or refer patients to an appropriate specialist
- use their extensive practice experience to plan and provide skilled and competent care to meet patient's health and social care needs, involving other members of the health care team as appropriate
- ensure the provision of continuity of care including follow-up visits
- assess and evaluate, with patients, the effectiveness of the treatment and care provided and make changes as needed
- work independently, although often as part of a health care team
- provide leadership
- make sure that each patient's treatment and care is based on best practice.