

Fast Facts about NJ Advanced Practice Nurses (APNs)

Number of APNs with active licensure in NJ are over 10,000. In NJ the APN title includes Nurse Practitioners, Clinical Nurse Specialists and Nurse Anesthetists.

Where they work: Primary care and specialty practices; hospitals-inpatient services, emergency rooms and ambulatory care clinics; nursing homes; visiting nurse services; schools; college health centers; prisons; state psychiatric hospitals and developmental centers; behavioral health centers; nurse managed clinics (inner city neighborhood vans); independent practices caring for the rural underserved and the fragile elderly; nursing school faculties; pharmaceutical and other health care services-related companies; health care foundations; professional associations; and virtually throughout the NJ healthcare sector and in the NJ Legislature and NJ Departments of Government.

Licensure and Education Required: Begins with RN Licensure; followed by graduation from a masters or doctoral level program in an Advanced Practice Nurse primary or specialty area, state boards and national certification as an Advanced Practice Nurse and then licensed and regulated by the NJ Board of Nursing.

Statutory mandates for practice: Currently must have a Joint Protocol with a collaborating physician to order or prescribe medications and devices related to drug delivery. APNs are authorized to prescribe all medications including controlled substances. If APNs do not prescribe drugs, they are not required to have a Joint Protocol. All other aspects of their practice are fully independent.

Reimbursement by Insurance Companies/Carriers: APNs are recognized as primary and specialty care providers by all major health insurance carriers, including Medicare; Medicaid (and Medicaid Managed Care Companies); Horizon Blue Cross/Blue Shield United Health Care; Oxford; Aetna, Amerihealth, Qualcare and so on. Once credentialed and empanelled by these companies, they can bill under their own NPI numbers.

Malpractice Insurance: All APNs are covered by malpractice insurance purchased either personally or through the employer or both. The rate of Malpractice claims against APNs is much lower than that of physicians. During 2005 through 2014, ranged from 11.2 to 19.0 malpractice payment reports per 1,000 physicians, compared to 1.1 to 1.4 per 1,000 NPs.

Salary: Annual median salary of an APN as of 2020 is \$160K