



Nurse Practitioners (NP), Physician Assistants (PA) and Certified Nurse Midwives (CNM)

Providing Continuity and Enhancing Care

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Can anyone see an advanced practice provider?

Yes. These providers are an integral part of providing quality health care, focusing on the whole person when treating specific health problems, as well as educating patients and families. Our advanced practice providers have specialty interests, as well as a wide-range of experience with chronic and acute conditions, disease management and preventive care.

You can request to see a nurse practitioner, physician assistant or certified nurse midwife at UW Health. A few insurance providers may not cover their services, so be sure to check with your insurance provider if you have questions.

What is the relationship between my physician and advanced practice provider?

Advanced practice providers work in a collaborative team with your physician to provide you the benefit of each provider's expertise. This approach allows for timely access to appointments, improves quality of care, and ultimately results in better health outcomes.

How can I learn more about the advanced practice provider I will be seeing?

Visit uwhealth.org/findadoctor to search by the provider's name and learn more about his/her background, training and clinical interests.

“ We bring a wealth of experience...and, even more importantly, we are available and accessible to share this with staff, patients and their families. Advance practice nurses have also developed a sense of savvy about how a health care organization runs and have learned to be team players. In a nutshell, we know how to get things done.”

~ Ellen, NP

“ I've had extensive treatment at UW Health, and among the best of the best health care professionals were the advanced practice providers on my treatment team. Their experience, knowledge and skills, (both technical and especially interpersonal), quickly built trust and rapport that helped me to understand my conditions and treatment options and make the informed decisions that were right for me.”

~ Rick, UW Health Patient

“ When everything around us was swirling and unnerving, the advanced practice provider was our constant; a calm in the storm.”

~ Cindy, UW Health Patient





At UW Health, we work together as a team of health care providers and staff to optimize our service to you – our patients, families and community. This multidisciplinary approach has been shown to improve patient and family satisfaction, quality of care and health outcomes.

Nurse practitioners (NPs), physician assistants (PAs) and certified nurse midwives (CNMs) are health care providers you may see during your visits with us at UW Health. These providers are also referred to as advanced practice providers (APPs). They work in partnership with UW Health specialty and primary care physicians to provide high quality, patient and family centered care that is coordinated, efficient and timely.

What are advanced practice providers?

Advanced practice providers are health care providers working together with physicians to provide direct medical care to our patients at UW Health. These providers see patients of all ages across primary, specialty, hospital and long term care settings.

They have the education and training to treat patients with acute and chronic conditions, promote health and prevent disease.

Nurse practitioner (NP)

- A nurse practitioner is a registered nurse who holds a master's or a doctorate degree with specific advanced nursing education and training in the diagnosis and management of common and complex medical conditions.
- Nurse practitioners are also referred to as advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs).
- Training includes extensive clinical rotations, focusing on nursing and medical models of care and overall health and wellness, which prepare them to practice in a variety of settings.

- Nurse practitioners are nationally board certified and maintain continuing education throughout their careers.
- Additional resources about nurse practitioners can be found on the American Association of Nurse Practitioners website at aanp.org/all-about-nps.

Physician assistant (PA)

- A physician assistant is an advanced practice provider licensed to provide medical care with the supervision of a physician. Current physician assistant programs award a master's degree.
- Training includes extensive clinical rotations, focusing on medical models of care (including surgical training) and overall health and wellness, which prepare them to practice in a variety of settings.
- Physician assistants are nationally board certified and maintain continuing education throughout their careers.
- Additional resources about physician assistants can be found on the American Academy of Physician Assistants website at aapa.org/What-is-a-PA.

Certified nurse midwife (CNM)

- A certified nurse midwife is a registered nurse with a master's or doctorate degree with advanced nursing education, training and certification in the diagnosis, management, prevention of common and complex medical conditions in women and infants, as well as reproductive health.
- Certified nurse midwives are also referred to as advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs).
- Training includes extensive clinical rotations, focusing on health and wellness throughout a woman's reproductive life, including pre-conception, pregnancy, childbirth and the postpartum period.
- Certified nurse midwives are nationally board certified and maintain continuing education throughout their careers.
- Additional resources about certified nurse midwives can be found on the American College of Nurse Midwives website at ourmomentoftruth.com/What-is-a-Midwife.

What services can be provided by an advanced practice provider?

Advanced practice providers can provide the following services:

- Order, perform and interpret diagnostic tests (such as laboratory and medical imaging tests)
- Diagnose and treat illnesses
- Prescribe medications and other treatments
- Counsel and educate patients on their health condition and prevention of illness
- Manage and coordinate care with an interdisciplinary team including physicians, nurses, social workers, pharmacists, etc.
- Collaborate with your physician, as needed, to develop a plan of care, which may include additional treatment, surgery, referrals, etc.