

## Can anyone see an APP?

Yes. These providers are an integral part of providing quality health care.

APPs focus on not just treating an illness, but focus on the whole person when treating specific health problems. Our AAPs are here to support and education patients and families. Each APP at Sanford Health has expertise in a wide range of services including disease management and preventive care.

You can request to see a nurse practitioner, physician assistant or certified nurse midwife. Some health insurance providers may not cover services from an APP. Please check with your health insurance provider to determine your benefits.

## What is the relationship between physicians and APPs?

Each of our APPs partners with our Sanford Health's specialty and primary care physicians to provide you compassionate and patient-centered care.

APPs work in a collaborative team with other physicians. No matter who you work with, you are getting a provider who will partner with you throughout your lifetime. They work with your other physicians to allow for timely access to appointments, improved quality and a better overall patient experience.

## What services can be provided by an advanced practice provider?

- Diagnose and treat of conditions and illnesses.
- Order, perform and interpret diagnostic tests, such as laboratory and medical imaging tests.
- 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 of physicians, nurses, social workers, pharmacists and more.
- Collaborate with your other physician to develop a personalized and comprehensive care plan, which may include additional treatment, surgery, referrals and more

## How can I learn more about my APP?

Visit [sanfordhealth.org](https://www.sanfordhealth.org) to learn more about your provider's background, training, specializations, clinical interests and more.

# Advanced practice providers (APPs)

## Frequently Asked Questions



## What are advanced practice providers?

Advanced practice providers (APPs) are health care providers who work with physicians to care for patients. APPs see patients of all ages for primary, specialty and long-term care needs. They have the education and training to treat and care for patients with acute and chronic conditions, improve health and prevent disease.

## Nurse practitioner

A nurse practitioner (NP), also called an advanced practice registered nurse (APRN), is a registered nurse who can diagnose, treat and manage common to complex medical conditions. NPs are board certified and hold a master's or a doctorate degree with specific advanced nursing education and training. Like physicians, NPs maintain continuing education throughout their careers. To find additional resources about NPs, visit the American Association of Nurse Practitioners website at [aanp.org/all-about-nps](http://aanp.org/all-about-nps).



## Physician assistant

A physician assistant (PA) has a master's degree and is licensed to provide medical care with the supervision of a physician. Training includes extensive clinical rotations that focus on preparing PAs to practice in a variety of settings. This includes diagnosis of disease, treatment of conditions, preventive care, and even surgical training. PAs are board certified and maintain continuing education throughout their careers. To find additional resources about PA, visit the American Academy of Physician Assistants website at [aapa.org/What-is-a-PA](http://aapa.org/What-is-a-PA).

## Certified nurse midwife

A certified nurse midwife (CNM) is a registered nurse who has a master's or doctorate degree with advanced nursing education, training and certification in the care of women and infants. CNMs offer preventive, obstetric, gynecologic and reproductive health care to women at all stages of life. Training includes extensive clinical rotations that focus on the health and wellness of a woman's reproductive life, including preconception, pregnancy, childbirth and the postpartum period. CNMs are nationally board certified and maintain continuing education throughout their careers. To find more resources about CNMs, visit the American College of Nurse Midwives website at [ourmomentoftruth.com/What-is-a-Midwife](http://ourmomentoftruth.com/What-is-a-Midwife). [aanp.org/all-about-nps](http://aanp.org/all-about-nps).



## Certified registered nurse anesthetist (CRNA)

A certified registered nurse anesthetist is a registered nurse with a master's degree specialized in the care and management of anesthesia. CRNA training includes experience as a registered nurse in an intensive care unit (ICU), extensive clinical rotations in a variety of settings requiring anesthesia as well as master's level coursework in pharmacology, anesthesia, pain management, biology and pathophysiology. CRNAs are board certified and complete continuing education throughout their careers. To learn more about CRNAs, visit the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists website at [aana.com/patients](http://aana.com/patients).

## Clinical Nurse Specialist

A clinical nurse specialist (CNS) is an advanced practice registered nurse with a master's degree. A CNS functions in five sub-roles: expert in clinical practice, educator, leader, researcher and consultant. As a CNS, they help identify gaps in healthcare delivery, assess, design, and implement healthcare interventions, provide expert services to specialty populations or individuals and advocate for safety, cost-effective and quality outcomes. Clinical Nurse Specialists hold nursing licensure and are board certified in their areas of expertise and service. To learn more about CNSs, visit the National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists website at [www.nacns.org](http://www.nacns.org).