

Core Differences Between Nurse Practitioner Majors

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Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP)

- Provides a wide range of health care services to patients of all ages, from infants to seniors.
- FNPs treat acute and chronic illnesses, in a primary care setting.
- FNPs practice in various health care settings, including community health centers, private practice, extended care facilities and schools/universities.

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- Focuses on patient education, disease prevention, and treating common acute and chronic illnesses.
- Practice areas include community-based offices and clinics that care for patients across the lifespan.

Adult Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner (AG-ACNP)

- Cares for adults and adolescents ages 13 years and older with complex chronic or acute conditions.
- Many AG-ACNPs practice in intensive care, trauma, or acute care units.
- Provides specialized care in clinics and long-term care facilities focus on preventing future complications while improving the health of the patient.

- Manages acute and complex chronic physical and mental illness in patients 13 and older.
- Works in hospital settings and adult specialty practices (e.g., Cardiology, Oncology).

Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP)

- Focuses on individuals and families at risk for or diagnosed with mental health and substance use disorders.
- Manages acute/chronic and complex mental health illnesses across the lifespan.
- Practices in various healthcare settings including in-patient settings, outpatient patient settings, substance use treatment facilities, prisons/jails, and community behavioral health centers.

- Promotes mental health well-being for individuals across the lifespan through the assessment, diagnosis and treatment of mental health and substances use disorders.
- Key roles include the prescribing, management or recommendation of psychiatric medications and various forms of psychotherapy.

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