



What is a nurse practitioner and how can they help Oklahoma? Presentation Guide

This PowerPoint presentation and guide are meant to help nurse practitioners across Oklahoma engage with their local communities by speaking to civic groups such as Rotary clubs, chambers of commerce, and more.

There are a number of public policy issues that are important to nurse practitioners, including full practice authority. In order to achieve our legislative goals, it is vital that we gain the public's support. That begins in your community, where you can tell your story and explain these complex issues to friends, neighbors and patients.

Slide one: Title

Nurse practitioners offer a solution to a worsening shortage of primary care providers. It's not that the public isn't supportive of our goals — they simply have not been educated on our profession and the issues surrounding full practice authority. It's time to change that.

Slide two: What is a nurse practitioner?

Start with the basics. Many people don't understand the distinctions between different medical professionals like nurse practitioners, registered nurses, physician assistants and more. This presentation is an opportunity to explain nurse practitioners' high level of education and training.

Slide three: How do NPs compare with other medical professionals?

This slide explains the difference in education and training for several of the medical professionals that patients are likely to encounter. This is also a chance to talk about your education and training, like where you went to school, what led you to become and nurse practitioner and more.

One note: avoid professional jargon and acronyms (NP, RN, APRN, etc.) so as not to confuse or intimidate the audience.

Slide four: How does a nurse practitioner differ from a general practice physician?

This is an opportunity to talk about how NPs differ from physicians. Beyond being "physician extenders," those in nursing industry use a patient-centered approach to care. Though not any better or worse than the medical model, the nursing model offers a different perspective.

Slide five: What services can a nurse practitioner provide?



Talk about the services you provide regularly for your patients, common injuries and conditions, as well as services you know that other NPs are providing across the state.

Slide six: A Day in the Life.

This is a chance for you to personalize the presentation and tell your story. What is your average day like? Where do you work and what sort of patients do you see? When do you arrive at work and how long are you there? Think of stories you can tell (within HIPAA requirements, of course) that emphasize our education and training, as well as our hectic day-to-day work life.

Slide seven: What is full practice authority?

Explain what it means to have a collaborate agreement with a doctor, and that some NPs pay physicians for such agreements only to get very little in return. Full practice authority isn't a lack of supervision and it's not a radical idea — it works in many states.

Follow the American Association of Nurse Practitioners recommendation to avoid phrases like “without a doctor’s supervision” or “independent practice.”

Slide eight: What are the benefits of full practice authority?

The slide lays out some of the best reasons for Oklahoma to allow full practice authority. If you have a shortage of primary care providers in your community, say so. How far do some of your patients travel to see you because there aren't any providers closer to their homes?

Slide nine: How can you help?

It's one thing for nurse practitioners to ask for full practice authority. It's something else entirely when Oklahomans outside the medical profession become aware and supportive of this issue. If audience members are supportive, the best thing they can do to help is to contact their legislators.

Note that the legislative session in Oklahoma runs from the first Monday in February to the last Friday in May. Communications with legislators outside that time period might be forgotten before the next session rolls around. If an audience member seems particularly supportive, get contact information from them so that you can remind them of the issue shortly before the next legislative session.

Slide 10: Questions?

You know your practice and profession better than anyone. Just be honest and forthright about your work. If you're unsure how to answer questions on legislation or public policy, don't be afraid to say so. Offer to seek out the answer and get back with the questioner.



Tips and Tricks

- The time allotted for the presentation will vary by event and organization but, in general, plan for a 20- to 30-minute presentation. That's two to three minutes per slide.
- Avoid acronyms and professional jargon. Be sure that the information you're providing is clear and understood by a general audience.
- Feel free to make a few notes about facts, stories or highlights you want to include, but don't write out a full speech. Refer back to the notes, but don't read from them. You'll appear more relaxed and authentic when you're speaking from the heart rather than from a script.
- Have a glass of water handy.
- Find out ahead of time whether the facility has a screen and projector for the PowerPoint presentation, and if you need to bring your own laptop. Ask what cords and connectors are needed.
- Dress professionally. As a general rule, avoid extremely loud colors or distracting patterns and prints, i.e. stripes or houndstooth, as well as loud jewelry, i.e. multiple bracelets, oversized jewelry. Whatever you wear, be sure it looks neat and put-together.

Setting up presentations

- Are you already the member of a local group? If so, great! Call the president, or whomever sets the meeting agendas, and let them know you'd like to speak about nurse practitioners, how they differ from other medical professionals and how they benefit Oklahoma's health care industry.
- Seek out local civic groups and contact the president or another officer. These could be chambers of commerce, Rotary clubs, Lions clubs, Kiwanis and more. Many of these groups have regular meetings that feature guest speakers. Even some neighborhood watch organizations have meetings and invite speakers from the community.
- Google and Facebook are great resources for finding these groups and the appropriate contacts. Others in the community like friends, business owners, family and fellow church members can also provide great information.