What is a certified Women’s Health Nurse Practitioner (WHNP-BC)?

What is a WHNP?

A Women's Health Nurse Practitioner (WHNP) is an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN), prepared at the master's or doctoral level to provide holistic, client-centered primary care and specialized care for women, and is inclusive of all gender identities, from puberty through the adult lifespan.

WHNPs command comprehensive clinical expertise — they provide primary, gynecological, and pre and postnatal care, order and interpret tests, make diagnoses, order treatment, perform procedures, and prescribe medications.

What services do certified WHNPs provide?

Routine and complex gynecologic, perinatal, sexual, reproductive, menopause transition, and post-menopause healthcare. In addition, their scope includes:

- Uncomplicated and high-risk antepartum and postpartum care
- Sexual and reproductive healthcare for men
- Care for uncomplicated non-gynecologic health problems
- Care that is inclusive of all gender identities and respectful and responsive to each client’s values, needs, and preferences
Comprehensive Women’s Health Across a Lifespan

- Immunizations, STI Risk Reduction
- Substance Abuse Risk, Sexual Health
- Mental Health, Gender-Affirming Care
- Genetic Screening, Cardio Health
- Brain Health, Bladder Health
- Fitness & Nutrition

Where & how do certified WHNPs provide care?

Primary Care of Women

WHNPs provide care in settings as diverse as, but not limited to:
- Private practice offices
- Community health centers
- Health departments
- Hospitals - inpatient & outpatient
- Family planning & Fertility clinics
- Rural health clinics
- Military & Veterans facilities
- Academic medical centers & Schools
- Correctional facilities
- HIV clinics
- Clients’ homes via Telehealth
- FQHCs

WHNP-BC education includes:

- WHNPs provide care both independently and collaboratively as members of the healthcare team.
- WHNPs provide leadership to improve women’s healthcare and health outcomes in practice settings, healthcare systems, and communities.
- They provide consultation to other healthcare professionals concerning the effects non-gynecologic health conditions and their treatment can have on reproductive and sexual health.

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