

Letter: Nurse practitioners vital to health care

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- http://www.tribdem.com/news/editorials/readers_forum/letter-to-the-editor-nurse-practitioners-vital-to-health-care/article_6468b974-c966-11e7-bedd-ffac6b1f236b.html
- https://www.dailyamerican.com/news/opinion/letters_to_the_editor/remember-nurse-practitioners/article_6be5e4d5-2ac9-5a04-a177-ef3731d75e15.html
- https://www.indianagazette.com/opinion/letters_to_editor/a-week-to-celebrate-nurse-practitioners/article_d6808f8a-63cd-5390-a6e9-b6574438a97e.html

Nov. 12-18 is National Nurse Practitioner (NP) Week – a time to celebrate this distinguished group of health-care providers.

For more than a half century, NPs across the United States have provided comprehensive, cost-effective, patient-centered services to millions of Americans. There are more than 1 billion visits made to NPs annually. There are more than 234,000 licensed nurse practitioners in the country, with more than 11,000 in Pennsylvania.

NPs are graduates of master, post-master or doctoral programs with advanced clinical preparation to provide primary, acute and chronic care to patients of all ages and walks of life.

NPs diagnose and treat acute and chronic conditions such as diabetes, high blood pressure, infections and injuries.

We order, perform and interpret diagnostic tests such as lab work and X-rays.

We prescribe medications and other treatment modalities. NPs provide health care to people across the life span and in diverse health-care settings such as private office practices, hospitals, long-term care facilities, schools, retail clinics, public health departments, wound clinics and prisons. NPs treat the whole person, guiding him or her to make informed health care decisions and lifestyle choices.

We take this opportunity to remind lawmakers of the importance of removing outdated barriers to practice so that NPs will be allowed to treat to the full extent of their experience and education.

Nurse practitioners love caring for their patients and are happy to be part of the health-care team in Pennsylvania and across the nation.

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