

Scope of Practice: Diabetes Nurse Practitioner

Role of the Nurse Practitioner

A Nurse Practitioner (NP) is a registered nurse educated to a Master's degree level and endorsed to function autonomously and collaboratively in an advanced and extended clinical role. They have attained appropriate accreditation with the Australian Health Regulation Agency (APRHA). The title "Nurse Practitioner" can only be used by a person who has been endorsed by the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia. The Nurse Practitioners work as a key member of the healthcare team and collaborate with other nurses and healthcare professionals including GPs, medical and surgical specialists, physiotherapists, dietitians, occupational therapists, social workers, and many others.

The ideal time to consult a Diabetes Nurse Practitioner is after a Credentialed Diabetes Educator (CDE) assessment who can assess and revise baseline diabetes self-care skills, ie. self-blood glucose measurement and injection technique.

Diabetes management can then continue with a Nurse Practitioner as there are no restriction on the number of visits subsidised by Medicare, unlike a Chronic GP Management Plan which have 5 allocated Medicare visits to allied health as part of the multi-disciplinary team.

A referral is required to a Nurse Practitioner which forms part of a collaborative care agreement with the referring GP/specialist and the Diabetes Nurse Practitioner.

Advanced Scope of Practice: Nurse Practitioner Diabetes

- Independent practice
 - Assess patients with diabetes
 - Diagnose
 - >Physical examination/patient history/pathology
 - Treat
 - >Initiate or adjust injectable therapy/oral hypoglycaemic therapy
 - Discharge to GP or other specialist or specialist clinic
 - Education

Currently the UFS Diabetes Nurse Practitioner service provides consultation for adults.

Endocrinologists may refer and maintain ongoing care for clients with Gestational Diabetes (GDM), steroid induced diabetes and established Type 1 Diabetes T1DM using multiple daily injections (MDI).

Full database service is available for those using Libre2 continuous glucose monitoring (CGM), other CGM users need to provide data downloads via private database accounts, ie Clarity and Carelink and bring to appointment.

*GPs may refer clients with Type 2 Diabetes via a Team Care Arrangement (TCA) to our Diabetes Nurse Practitioner as a Credentialed Diabetes Educator (CDE) referral. Our Nurse Practitioner is also a CDE and can accept referrals via this pathway.

Out of Scope of Practice: Nurse Practitioner Diabetes

The UFS Diabetes Nurse Practitioner does not:

- provide education for newly diagnosed Type 1 Diabetes
- education for professional carers
- see clients who do not have a diabetes diagnosis, ie no obesity related consultations