

# Exploring Nurse Practitioners' Contribution to Medical Education: A Scoping Review

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## Introduction

Today, approximately 10,800 licensed NPs work in Canada, contributing significantly to healthcare delivery amidst a shortage of family physicians<sup>1</sup>.

Despite their growing involvement in patient care, there is limited discussion on their role in medical education, particularly in teaching procedural skills to medical learners.

## Purpose

This scoping review examines how NPs contribute to medical education, evaluates their roles in clinical teaching and curriculum development and identifies gaps in the literature. It also suggests areas for future research.

## Method

Conducted searches in CINAHL, MEDLINE (ovid), and Embase, supplemented by Google Scholar (first 300 articles reviewed).

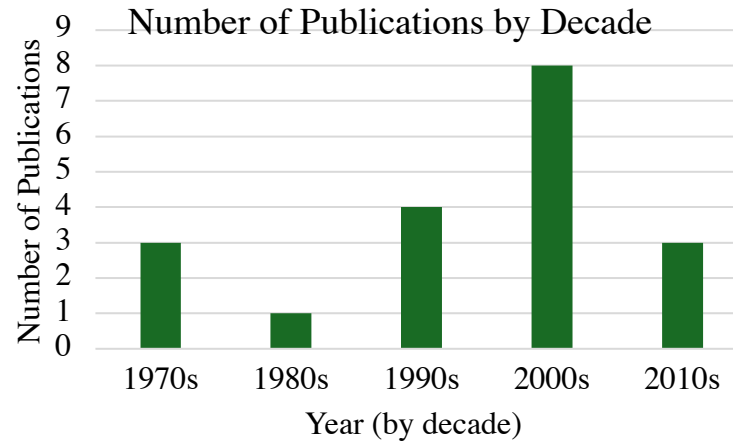
**Inclusion criteria:** Studies published in English, focusing on NPs in teaching medical students and/or residents.

Ovid<sup>®</sup>

Database(s): Ovid MEDLINE(R) 1946 to June Week 2 2024  
Search Strategy:

#	Searches	Results
1	exp Nurse Practitioners/	19404
2	exp Education, Medical/	189104
3	exp Clinical Competence/	107876
4	exp Interprofessional Education/	585
5	teaching.tw,kf.	150176
6	basic skill*.tw,kf.	1139
7	procedural skill*.tw,kf.	1356
8	exp Students, Medical/	45731
9	exp Clinical Clerkship/	5859
10	exp Education, Medical, Graduate/	84442
11	learner*.tw,kf.	18445
12	resident*.tw,kf.	216546
13	medical student*.tw,kf.	46167
14	or/2-7 [**Teaching]	381441
15	or/8-13 [**Medical Learners]	334773
16	1 and 14 and 15	351

## Results



**Table 1.** Roles of NPs in Medical Education Across Clinical Settings

Clinical Setting	NP Roles in Medical Education
Pre-Clerkship	Teaching basic clinical skills; teaching breast examinations
Family Medicine	Teaching clinical decision-making; acting as preceptors in clerkship settings
Geriatrics	Educating on elder neglect identification and management
Obstetrics and Gynecology	Giving didactic lectures; leading in-patient rounds; teaching postpartum care; clerkship preceptors
Pediatric Care	Teaching neonatal procedural skills; educating on asthma management and discharge planning



## Discussion

### Learner Perception and Educational Impact

- Medical learners consistently value NP-led education for its practical relevance to real-world patient care scenarios

### Role as Educators and Mentors

- NPs serve as educators and mentors within healthcare teams

### Integration into Residency Programs

- Exposes medical learners to interdisciplinary teamwork and enhances their ability to provide holistic patient care

### Advocacy for Nursing Theories and Patient-Centered Care

- Encompassing effective communication, cultural competence, and continuity of care

## Conclusion

Most of the articles focused on the teaching of basic skills, while NPs can teach more advanced procedural skills.

**Future direction:** A program evaluation of NP-run pap clinic at the Women's College Hospital Family Health Team (WCH- FHT).