

# Types of Advanced Practice Registered Nurses

Who are they?	How many in the U.S.?	What do they do?
Nurse Practitioners (NP)	<b>205,000+</b>	Take health histories and provide complete physical exams; diagnose and treat acute and chronic illnesses; provide immunizations; prescribe and manage medications and other therapies; order and interpret lab tests and X-rays; provide health teaching and supportive counseling.
Clinical Nurse Specialists (CNS)	<b>72,521</b>	Provide advanced nursing care in hospitals and other clinical sites; provide acute and chronic care management; develop quality improvement programs; serve as mentors, educators, researchers, and consultants.
Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNA)	<b>49,000+</b>	Administer anesthesia and related care before and after surgical, therapeutic, diagnostic, and obstetrical procedures, as well as pain management. Settings include operating rooms, outpatient surgical centers, and dental offices. CRNAs deliver more than 65% of all anesthetics to patients in the United States.
Certified Nurse-Midwives (CNM)	<b>11,192</b>	Provide primary care to women, including gynecological exams, family planning advice, prenatal care, management of low-risk labor and delivery, and neonatal care. Practice settings include hospitals, birthing centers, community clinics, and patient homes.

## Sources:

AARP Public Policy Institute, Center to Champion Nursing in America. *Preparation and Roles of Nursing Care Providers in America*. Washington, DC, 2009.  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Service Administration. *The Registered Nurse Population: Initial Findings from the 2008 National Sample Survey of Registered Nurses*. Washington, DC, 2010.