

Nursing Theories and Nursing Practice

Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) are RNs who have completed a Master's of Science in Nursing (MSN) or higher in one of the four APRN specialty roles: the Certified Nurse-Midwife (CNM), Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA), Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS), or Nurse Practitioner (NP). APRNs are high-level nurses who have much more responsibility and autonomy within their roles.

Nurse Practitioners (NPs) are APRNs who provide specialized comprehensive care, to include preventative care, to patients in a variety of settings. Popular specializations include Acute Care, Adult-Gerontology, Family Care, Neonatal, Pediatric, Psychiatric, and Women's Health.

A Certified Nurse-Midwife (CNM) is an APRN who specializes in women's reproductive health and childbirth. They assist with pregnancy, labor, postpartum care, and much more.

The Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) is an APRN who is a leader in their field. They may specialize in a particular patient population, such as geriatrics, or in an area of care, such as emergency room services. They use their clinical skills to mentor and educate personnel and patients.

Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs) are APRNs who specialize in administering anesthesia to patients. They may work alongside anesthesiologists or independently.

See All APRN Careers

Reference

[Heart Attack, Cardiac Cath, & Bypass: A Nurse's Guide to Caring for the Patient](#)
[Enhancing NIH Research on Autoimmune Disease](#)