



COLLEGE AND ASSOCIATION OF NURSES
of the Northwest Territories and Nunavut

Nurse Practitioner FAQs

Can NPs be self-employed or have an independent practice in the NT and NU?

Yes, NPs may be self-employed, but there are many things to consider from a business perspective, a liability perspective, a legislative perspective, and from a registration perspective.

CANNN does not offer business advice however, it would be prudent for an NP to consider the city/town/hamlet, territorial and national requirements for owning and operating a business.

From a liability perspective, the Canadian Nurse Protective Society (CNPS) provides coverage to NPs practicing nursing including providing legal advice, assistance with legal proceedings, risk management and education services.

From a legislative perspective NPs are entitled to use advanced nursing knowledge, skills and judgment, but with that entitlement comes the responsibility to ensure that you as an NP have the knowledge, skills and judgment to make a diagnosis, prescribe and monitor the effectiveness of a drug and to perform procedures with skill. It is the NPs who must decide whether they have the educational and practice background. As well, the prudent NP will understand the territorial and national legislative requirements under Acts and regulations such as the Access to Information and Privacy Act (NWT, 2015) the Workers 'Compensation Act (2017) and the Public Health Act (NWT, 2007) to highlight a few.

From a registration perspective the NP must be aware of what constitutes NP practice and to report only those hours of practice that are directly connected to the NP practice. For example, completing business documentation is not to be considered in your NP hours.