

**CHILDREN'S MEDICAL GROUP
CUMBERLAND, MARYLAND**

(301) 724-7616

THE CERTIFIED REGISTERED NURSE PRACTITIONER (C.R.N.P.)

1. What is the education and training needed to become a nurse practitioner?

Four years of nursing training and college where the trainee earns a Bachelor of Science Degree in nursing. Next is a Master's Degree, which takes two years, and then the Nurse Practitioner Clinical Training Program, which takes one more year. Maintaining certification requires 75 hours of continuing education every 5 years, or passing the recertification exam every 5 years.

The Children's Medical Group physician staff gives pertinent continuing medical education lectures to the nurse practitioner as a matter of routine.

2. How is the role of a nurse practitioner different from that of a registered nurse or licensed practical nurse?

Unlike RNs and LPNs, nurse practitioners are trained to take histories and do physical exams. They also have the authority to diagnose and prescribe medications for illness.

3. What is the difference between a nurse practitioner and a physician?

The nurse practitioner performs many health care tasks formerly carried out only by the physician, thus enabling the physician to spend more time with more complicated or sicker patients. The nurse practitioners' training has prepared them to identify patients who need the attention of the physician.

4. What is the role of the nurse practitioner at Children's Medical Group?

The nurse practitioner sees children with common childhood illnesses, such as ear infections, coughs, colds, diaper rashes, contact rashes, sore throats, skin lesions, etc. Also, the well child and preventive health care is shared with the physicians .

There is always a physician available for consultation. So, if a patient seeing the nurse practitioner appears to have a complicated or severe problem, the physician sees the patient as well.

(OVER)

THE PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT (P.A.)

1. What is the education and training needed to become a physician assistant?

At least two years of undergraduate education and previous health care experience. Then, it is required to complete a specially designed program at a medical school, university, or teaching hospital, or through the Armed Forces, which is designed to complement the training of the physician. This program lasts 2-3 years.

Maintaining certification requires 100 continuing medical education credits every 2 years, and the recertification exam is taken every 6 years. The CMG physician staff gives pertinent CME lectures to the physician assistant as a matter of routine.

2. How is the role of the physician assistant different from that of a nurse practitioner or registered nurse?

Nurses study nursing and not medicine. Nurses focus on issues and techniques of "bedside" care. The physician assistant is taught to diagnose and treat illness. Nurse practitioners practice similarly to physician assistants; however, nurse practitioners may be independent health care practitioners. Some prescription writing privileges may be permitted depending on state law.

3. What is the difference between a physician assistant and a physician?

Physician assistants are trained in the "medical model," roughly equivalent to the first and third years of medical school. The main difference is not the core of the education, but the amount of time in school. The physician assistant performs many health care tasks formerly carried out only by the physician. This enables the physician to spend more time with more complicated or sicker patients. The physician assistant is prepared to identify patients who need the attention of the physician.

4. What is the role of the physician assistant at Children's Medical Group?

What a physician assistant does varies with training, experience and state law. The role at Children's Medical Group is to take histories, perform physical exams, diagnose illness, develop and carry out treatment plans, order and interpret lab tests, suture wounds, provide preventive counseling, recommend further therapy, etc. Also, the well child and preventive health care is shared with physicians.

There is always a physician available for consultation. So, if a patient seeing the physician assistant appears to have a complicated or severe problem, the physician sees the patient as well.