

WHO'S TAKING CARE OF YOU?

NP-C vs PA-C vs MD/DO - WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?



NP-C: Nurse Practitioner Certified | **PA-C:** Physician Assistant Certified | **MD:** Doctor of Medicine | **DO:** Doctor of Osteopathy

	PREREQUISITE EDUCATION	LEARNING MODEL	DEGREE OR CERTIFICATE AWARDED	
	<p>NP-C BACHELOR'S DEGREE in nursing and clinical hours</p> <p>PA-C BACHELOR'S DEGREE and clinical hours (no specific major required)</p> <p>MD/DO BACHELOR'S DEGREE (no specific major required) fulfill medical school prerequisite</p>	<p>MEDICAL - NURSING</p> <p>MEDICAL - PHYSICIAN</p> <p>MEDICAL - PHYSICIAN</p>	<p>MASTER'S DEGREE planned transition to Doctorate</p> <p>MASTER'S DEGREE PA-C</p> <p>DOCTOR OF MEDICINE (MD) OR OSTEOPATHY (DO)</p>	
	<p><i>Time in...</i></p> <p>CLASSROOM</p> <p>CLINIC</p> <p>RESIDENCY</p>	<p>NP-C</p> <p>500 HRS</p> <p>900+ HRS</p> <p>Optional 1-2 YRS</p>	<p>PA-C</p> <p>1,000 HRS</p> <p>2,000 HRS</p> <p>Optional 1-2 YRS</p>	<p>MD/DO</p> <p>2 YRS</p> <p>2 YRS</p> <p>3-8 YRS</p>
	RECERTIFICATION	1,000 professional practice hours + 20 CE credits/year or exam every 5 years	100 education hours every 2 years and exam every 10 years	50 education hours/year and exam every 2 or 10 years
	LICENSED BY	STATE NURSING BOARD	STATE MEDICAL BOARD	STATE MEDICAL BOARD
	<p>Write Prescriptions</p> <p>Prescribed Controlled Substances</p> <p>Conduct Physical Exams</p> <p>Diagnose and Treat Illnesses</p> <p>Order and Interpret Tests</p> <p>Counsel Patients</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p>



DO, MD, NP, and PA: Four Great Routes to Quality Healthcare

P3 Health Partners Nevada Medical Group is proud to employ a variety of healthcare providers from diverse medical education backgrounds. We understand that many patients are most familiar with medical doctors, also known as MDs, but we encourage our patients to learn more about how the medical profession has evolved.

Each professional path requires extensive classroom and practice hours and all are certified by the state medical or nursing boards. Most importantly, all four types of medical professionals are qualified to handle all your primary care needs.

Here are some answers to frequently asked questions about provider types:

Why doesn't everyone take the same path?

In some cases, career goals evolve. Students studying nursing decide to take the next step and become certified nurse practitioners. In other cases, students obtain a degree in a non-pre-med field, like kinesiology, and decide that becoming a certified physician assistant will help them reach their goals to care for patients. Other students relish the depth of knowledge gained in medical school with hands-on experience in both the classroom and clinical settings.

What's the difference between an MD and a DO?

While both provider types are referred to as doctors, there are some differences. DOs are osteopathic physicians whose education and training focuses on the body as an integrated whole. MDs are allopathic physicians, where the traditional Western medicine approach centers more on diagnosing illness and injury and treating through medical or surgical remedies. Both types of doctors complete similar medical education and clinical experience requirements and are licensed by the state medical board. While MDs are found in a variety of practice types, most DOs opt to practice in primary care because it allows them to use their comprehensive approaches to deliver excellent patient care.

What's the difference between a licensed practical nurse (LPN), registered nurse (RN) and certified nurse practitioner (NP-C)?

All three types of nurses contribute to great patient care. Licensed practical nurses (LPNs) usually have about one year of nursing education and some earn certifications or associate's degrees. They are required to work under a doctor or certified nurse practitioner's close supervision and often work in long-term care facilities. Registered nurses (RNs) have an associates or bachelor's degree and frequently opt to work in hospitals. Certified nurse practitioners (NP-Cs) are required to have a master's degree and care for patients in medical group clinics or private practices, performing the same duties as their MD, DO, and PA-C colleagues.

Don't physician assistants (PA-Cs) just assist doctors?

While PA-Cs are required to be assigned to a medical doctor, they can perform nearly every function in a primary care practice that the physician can, including conducting examinations, ordering and reviewing labs and tests and prescribing medications. The doctor the PA-C is assigned to has to review 5 percent of their charts, but PA-Cs operate independently nearly all of the time.

Why does P3 Medical Group use PA-Cs and NP-Cs to care for patients?

We chose a diverse group of qualified practitioners because of their commitment to quality patient care. Regardless of their education path, each of our providers is certified, licensed and experienced. We respect our patients' preferences for the provider they feel most comfortable with and encourage them to experience the outstanding care from our entire provider team.