November 9-15, 2015, is National Nurse Practitioner week. Vanderbilt employs the highest number of NPs in the state and is one of the largest employers of NPs in the country. Integral to our multi-disciplinary teams, NPs are excellent coordinators, communicators and providers of care, emphasizing the health and well-being of the whole person.

Please take a moment to celebrate NP week and know that you are a unique and valuable member of Vanderbilt's health care team!

**Facts about NPs from the American Association of Nurse Practitioners**

"Nurse practitioners (NPs) have been providing primary, acute and specialty health care to patients of all ages and walks of life for nearly half a century. As clinicians who blend clinical expertise in diagnosing and treating health conditions with an added emphasis on disease prevention and health management, NPs assess patients, order and interpret diagnostic tests, make diagnoses, and initiate and manage treatment plans.

The first NPs were educated at the University of Colorado in 1965. Programs soon spread across the U.S. Recent estimates account for approximately 192,000 practicing NPs today. Close to 14,000 new NPs are prepared each year at over 325 colleges and universities. All NPs must complete a master’s or doctoral degree program and have advanced clinical training beyond their initial professional registered nurse preparation. Didactic and clinical courses prepare nurses with specialized knowledge and clinical competency to practice in primary care, acute care and long-term health care settings.

NPs are licensed in all states and the District of Columbia and practice under the rules and regulations of the state in which they are licensed. They provide high-quality care in rural, urban and suburban communities and in many types of settings including clinics, hospitals, emergency rooms, urgent care sites, private physician or NP practices, nursing homes, schools, colleges and public health departments."

**Key Facts about NPs**

- There are approximately 192,000 nurse practitioners (NPs) practicing in the U.S.
- 84.9% of NPs see patients covered by Medicare and 83.9% by Medicaid.
- 44.8% of NPs hold hospital privileges and 15.2% have long-term care privileges.
- NPs hold prescriptive privilege in all 50 states and Washington, D.C.
- 69.5% of NPs see three or more patients per hour.
- Patients whose primary care providers are NPs have fewer emergency room visits and shorter hospital stays, resulting in lower out-of-pocket costs.
- Patients seen by acute care NPs have been shown to have decreased hospital costs and increased patient satisfaction.

Please enjoy this video by the American Association of Nurse Practitioner title “Nurse Practitioners Leading the Charge” [https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=osqYDWr81sE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=osqYDWr81sE)