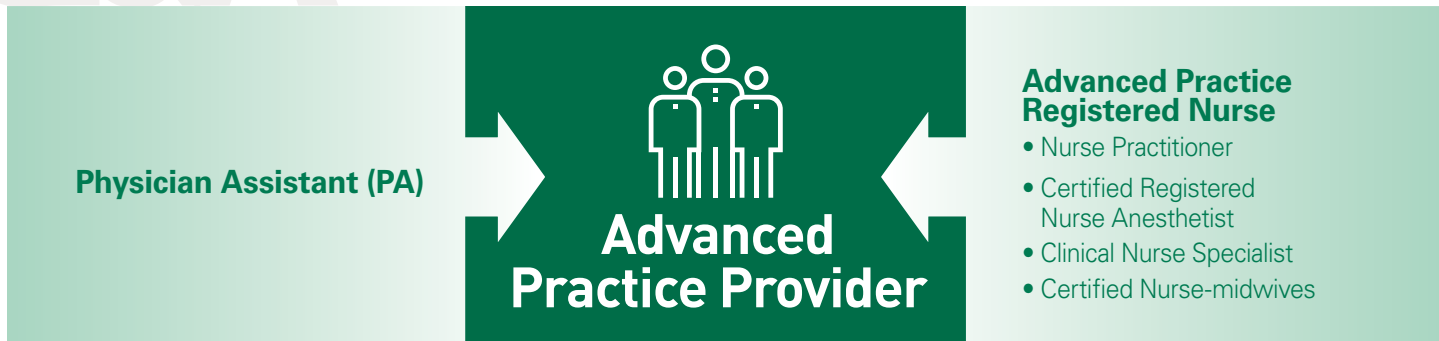


NEUROLOGY ADVANCED PRACTICE PROVIDER (APP) FAQs

Q&A



1. What is an APP?

An “APP,” or advanced practice provider, is a type of health care provider. An APP works together with your neurologist to provide you the best care possible.

2. What are the different types of APPs?

The two most common types of APPs are nurse practitioners (NPs) and physician assistants (PAs). There are other types of APPs more common in other fields (see figure), but these are the two most common in neurology.

3. What kind of education does an APP have?

All APPs have advanced degrees, but their school and training are different. All APPs must continue learning after their training to keep up-to-date.

Nurse Practitioners

- Have a Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) or Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP)
- Have a minimum number of hours in the clinic

Physician Assistants

- Have a Master’s degree
- Have a minimum number of hours in the clinic

4. What does an APP need in order to practice neurology?

APPs must have education from an accredited graduation program, an active state license, and certification through their professional board.

5. Does my APP only see patients in neurology?

APPs can practice in one area of neurology or practice in general neurology. Often, APPs who are very experienced focus on one area of care. They are just as knowledgeable within their field as any other provider.

6. Why would I want to see an APP?

While both doctors and APPs have the best interests of the patient in mind, they are trained to perform different roles. Doctors focus more on diagnosis and treatment of diseases. An APP may have learned a more holistic “nursing model” that includes your mental and emotional health. Different types of providers—doctors, APPs, therapists, nurses, and others—can offer different perspectives that are valuable to you.

7. I’d still rather see a doctor. Why am I seeing an APP?

A paper in 2013 said the average wait time to see a neurologist in 2012 was 35 business days. Your APP may be able to get you started on treatment or order tests so that you aren’t waiting between appointments with your doctor. Some people may prefer their APP, and some people may prefer their doctor, depending on what they are looking for from their care provider.

8. I still have questions or concerns about seeing an APP.

APPs, like doctors, have different philosophies and styles. It is important for you to find a provider you trust. Your APP works together with your doctor and the rest of your care team to help give you the best care possible. If you have concerns, talk to your care team about their experience and qualifications so that your provider can find the best care team for you.