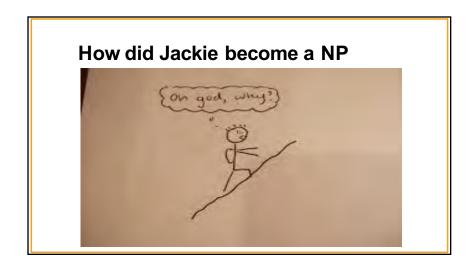
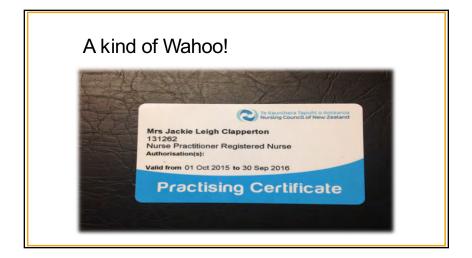


Registration

To register in the nurse practitioner scope of practice, the following qualifications are required:

- Registration with the Nursing Council of New Zealand in the registered nurse scope of practice; and
- A minimum of 4 years' experience in a specific area of practice; and
- The completion of an approved dinical master's degree programme which includes demonstration of the competencies for advanced practice and prescribing applied within a defined area of practice of the nurse practitioner. The programme must include relevant theory and concurrent practice; or
- The completion of an equivalent overseas clinically focused master's degree qualification which meets the requirement specified above; and
- Passing an assessment by an approved panel against the nurse practitioner competencies













What is a Nurse Practitioner?

Nurse practitioners are expert nurses who work within a specific area of practice incorporating advanced knowledge and skills.

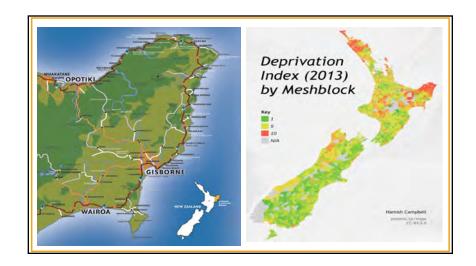
They practise both independently and in collaboration with other health care professionals to promote health, prevent disease and to diagnose, assess and manage people's health needs.

They provide a wide range of assessment and treatment interventions, including differential diagnoses, ordering, conducting and interpreting diagnostic and laboratory tests, and administrating therapies for the management of potential or actual health needs.

They work in partnership with individuals, families, whanau and communities across a range of settings.

Nurse practitioners prescribe medicines within their specific area of practice.

Nurse practitioners also demonstrate leadership as consultants, educators, managers and researchers, and actively participate in professional activities, and in local and national policy development (New Zealand Nursing Council, 2015).









Prescribing

From 1 July 2014, the Regulations allow nurse practitioners to prescribe controlled drugs within their scope of practice for:

- up to 1 month's supply for Class A and B controlled drugs
- up to 3 months' supply for Class C controlled drugs.

(Prior to 1 July the existing Regulations require nurse practitioners to prescribe from a set list of drugs, in an emergency, for up to 3 days.)

When the Medicines Amendment Bill was passed the New Zealand Nursing Council made changes to the nurse practitioner scope of practice and qualifications to indicate that it is a prescribing scope of practice. Nurse practitioners, authorised to prescribe, must provide evidence every three years, that they have maintained their competence with their application for a practising certificate. This includes evidence of on-going peer review of their prescribing practice by an authorised prescriber and

- a) a minimum of 40 hours per year of professional development aggregated over a three-year period; and
- b) a minimum of 40 days per year ongoing nursing practice aggregated over a **three**-year period within their defined area of practice.















