



Registered nurse prescribers and nurse practitioners are both registered nurses who have completed different education and as such perform different roles in meeting the needs of Nova Scotians. The Nova Scotia College of Nursing (NSCN) regulates all nurses and has produced this graphic to show how the two nursing roles are different.



Have a certificate in prescribing from an approved university.	Have a graduate-level education from an approved university.
Provide care independently within the health care team and is responsible for their prescribing decisions, but is not the most responsible health care provider for a client.	Provide care independently, autonomously as well as part of a team and can be the most responsible health care provider for a client.
Only prescribe within their specific area of expertise and for specific client conditions as determined by their employer.	Are able to provide care and prescribe to many different types of clients.
Are not authorized to prescribe controlled drugs and substances or medical cannabis.	Are able to prescribe for many different health conditions, including controlled drugs and substances and medical cannabis.
Order lab tests and manage results specific to the client conditions for which they are authorized to prescribe.	Order lab tests and manage results and perform minor procedures for clients.

RN prescribers and nurse practitioners are accountable for their own decisions and have unique sets of standards and licensing requirements they must meet in order to provide care to clients in Nova Scotia. Visit the NSCN website to learn more about what it takes to become an RN prescriber and nurse practitioner each and to understand the role NSCN plays to ensure all nurses provide safe, competent, ethical and compassionate care to clients in this province.

