

Hello, my name is Dr. Brigid Meehan-Brese. I'm a doctorally prepared nurse practitioner. I currently work for Gifford Medical Center in Primary Care. I specialize in providing care for adolescents and adults. I oversee a panel of nearly 1,000 patients. I also serve on the Vermont Nurse Practitioners Association board and sit on that organization's legislative committee.

I want to talk to you today about the Nurse Practitioner role. Nurse practitioners are highly skilled advanced practice providers. Nurse practitioners all begin their graduate studies as registered nurses. From that point, we attend Masters or Doctoral programs geared toward the population we serve.

Nurse practitioners must pass a national accrediting exam and obtain a license through the state Board of Nursing. In Vermont, we are required to have a collaborative agreement with a physician or an experienced nurse practitioner for the first two years of practice. We're all required to continue with educational credits throughout our careers to stay current on current practices.

Nurse practitioners can specialize in a variety of settings, including primary care, where we can provide care to people throughout the lifespan, or specialize in geriatrics or pediatrics. We can also specialize in acute care, emergency care, psychiatry, anesthesiology, gynecology and obstetrics, and specialty care.

We typically work in various locations, including clinics, hospitals, emergency departments, urgent cares, schools, skilled nursing homes and facilities, and home health.

As nurse practitioners, we can evaluate patients, diagnose conditions, prescribe medications, prescribe therapeutic measures, interpret laboratory and diagnostic testing, and formulate patient care plans.

In Vermont, we have a full practice authority, which allows us to provide quality care and afford good access to care for patients. As we all know, Vermont is a rural state with unique challenges. Rural parts of our country generally lack access to Primary Care due to provider shortages. Having skilled clinicians available is a good way to bridge this gap and ensure we support our rural communities.

Nurse Practitioners work collaboratively with physicians, Physician assistants, Pharmacists, Physical therapists, and professionals throughout the healthcare continuum. We have a perspective that is unique and comes out of the nursing model; We tend to be excellent advocates for our patients and care deeply about representing our communities and ensuring that we are addressing gaps and care when we see them.

Going forward, Michelle Wade and myself are contacts for Vermont Nurse Practitioners Association. VNPA is the contact point for APRN's in the state, we also represent a psych mental health nurse practitioners and they have representation on our board. We worked very

closely with certified nurse midwife's, and also have established relationships with other nursing groups throughout the state.

If anybody has any questions I would invite you to asked them at this time.