Do you need an Advanced Practice Provider?

Quick guide to determining your needs and what advanced practice providers do at UC Davis.

Advanced practice providers are a growing group of health professionals that partner with physicians to fill an unmet need in a variety of health care settings.

Nurse practitioners (NP) and physicians' assistant (PA), commonly work in both in-patient and out-patient settings as part of the health care team.

What is the difference between a NP and PA?

- NP's and PA's both have graduate level education and are trained to manage patients. An NP builds on nursing experience where as a PA does not have a nursing background. An NP practices under their own license whereas a PA is practicing under the physician.

Insurance usually covers their care.

- Both NPs' and PA's can see patients and bill for their services. If they see them alone, it is billed at 85% of the physician billing rate. During shared visits, where a physician participates in the visit and plan, it can be billed at the physician rate. They can write prescriptions and perform procedures under a physicians' guidance

They fill an unmet need.

- With the changing needs of healthcare, advanced practice providers can be instrumental in managing complex patients and fill gaps in care as we shift to meet residency work hour restrictions and increased demand for specialty care.

Who should you look for?

- Look for an NP or PA that has a Masters' degree and is nationally certified. These are both billing requirements for medicare. Experience in your specialty is preferred but UC Davis does offer new graduate positions if you are inclined to invest in training someone.

Top 5
Things to ask:

1. **What is the need?** Throughput, increased volume, new service, procedures, lost revenue.

2. **Is an APP the best fit?** Duties require examination, ability to diagnose, order, do procedures or bill.

3. **How much will it cost?** Salary ranges are based on experience. Both NPs' and PA's are represented and paid hourly.

4. **Who will pay?** A proforma is presented by the department with analysis of expected salary, revenue, productivity metrics and service area and a decision is made.

5. **What are the next steps?** Once approved, develop a job description and follow the steps for hiring and credentialing.

UC DAVIS HEALTH