

# Do nurse practitioners in geriatrics maximize their full scope of practice in diverse geriatric settings?

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## BACKGROUND

In response to the aging population and a shortage of physicians, the Nursing Division has devoted significant resources to train nurse practitioners in the field of geriatrics (GNPs). By the end of 2020, there were 80 GNPs across Israel working in acute, long-term, and community care. This program is designed to expand nurses' scope-of-practice through the addition of skills, leadership, and areas of expertise. However, little is known about the extent to which GNPs implement the scope-of-practice in the field and whether they maximize their full potential following the training.

**Aims and objectives:** To examine the extent of GNs' scope-of-practice in a variety of healthcare settings across Israel.

## METHODS

A convenience sample of GNPs ( $n=58$ , response rate=72.5%), completed a self-administered questionnaire addressing personal and work characteristics, implementation of the scope of 25 practices, and professional satisfaction



## RESULTS

Over a third of respondents (38.8%) are currently working in acute care (e.g. geriatric wards), 40.3% in long-term facilities (e.g. nursing homes, geriatric medical centers), and 20.9% in community care.

The majority (70%) of participants stated that they work independently and make decisions autonomously. Overall, 23 participants stated that they do not conduct all the procedures for which they are qualified in their scope of practice. On average, GPNs performed 12.6 practices in their workplace (Range 0-25). Only 36.2% of respondents reported that they maximize their full potential at the workplace.

The ability to apply the full range of knowledge and skills was dependent on the type of healthcare setting, and the local organizational climate and policies.



## CONCLUSIONS

Administrators should ensure that GNPs are able to maximize their scope-of-practice. Specifically, we recommend nurse managers to leverage the results of this study and advocate for nurses to fulfill their full potential in their scope of practice.