

# Team Approach to Quality Care

**Northeastern Rehabilitation Associates** (NERA) physicians work closely with highly qualified and skilled Nurse Practitioners (NP) and Physician Assistants (PA) in all our office locations.

Our NP's and PA's work together with our physicians as a team; assessing and treating each patient based on their individual needs. Discussing medical history, treatment plans, goals and progress, as part of a team, ensures our patients receive the highest quality of care. Whether you are seen by one of our NP's, PA's or physicians during your visits with us, it is our goal to provide you with the most beneficial and appropriate treatment and care.

Although their training is different, both NP's and PA's can work in private practice, hospitals, ambulatory centers and can specialize within a particular field of medicine.

## What is a Nurse Practitioner?

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A Nurse Practitioner is a Registered Nurse with advanced education, training and certification in specific healthcare specialty. In addition to receiving board certification, Nurse Practitioners undergo peer review of their skills and, like a physician, are required to continuously complete education and training to stay up-to-date with trends in medicine. Nurse Practitioners scope of practice is defined by the Nurse Practice Act of PA.

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## What is a Physician Assistant?

A Physician Assistant is a graduate of a certified physician assistant program and has passed a national certifying examination administered by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants and must recertify every ten years. Physician Assistants must meet continuing education requirements each year. Physician Assistants are certified by the State Board of Medicine and the State Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners.

NERA Nurse Practitioners and Physician Assistant duties include the following:

- Perform physical examinations to assess patient needs and formulate treatment plans
- Review medical records and compile patient medical history
- Order and interpret diagnostic and laboratory tests based on medical diagnosis
- Diagnose and treat illness and disease
- Prescribe medication and other treatments
- Promote positive health behaviors and self-care skills through education and counselling
- Collaborate with physicians and other health care professionals