Pediatric Primary Care: A Handbook For Nurse Practitioners

Catherine E Burns

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Pediatric Primary Care Nurse Practitioners (referred to as PPCNPs, CPNP-PCs, or PNPs) are primary care providers who offer preventative health services, health education, and disease management to the pediatric population. They specialize in diagnosing, treating, and managing illness for acutely ill and chronically ill children. They also provide thorough wellness exams for healthy pediatric patients. Students in the Pediatric Primary Care NP concentration learn health promotion, illness prevention, risk identification and acute and chronic care of infants, children, and adolescents from birth. The MSN in Pediatric Primary Care Nurse Practitioner (PNP-PC) online program is designed for nurses who are dedicated to providing expert, evidence-based care for children from birth to 21 years of age. This program prepares the pediatric nurse practitioner to provide leadership and promote research in the development of healthcare services for children across the primary care continuum, from preventative care to disease treatment. The PNP-PC is equipped to meet the needs of pediatric patients and their families at whichever point the patient enters the healthcare system. For pediatric nurse practitioners, certification in pediatrics can be completed concurrently within the MSN/DNP program or obtained via independent study via the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) or other learning institutes. The ANCC offers a Pediatric Primary Care Nurse Practitioner-Board Certified (PPCNP-BC) credential. Eligibility for this certification include: Current, active RN license. Hold an MSN/DNP from an accredited pediatric primary care nurse practitioner program, to include a minimum of 500 faculty-supervised clinical hours.