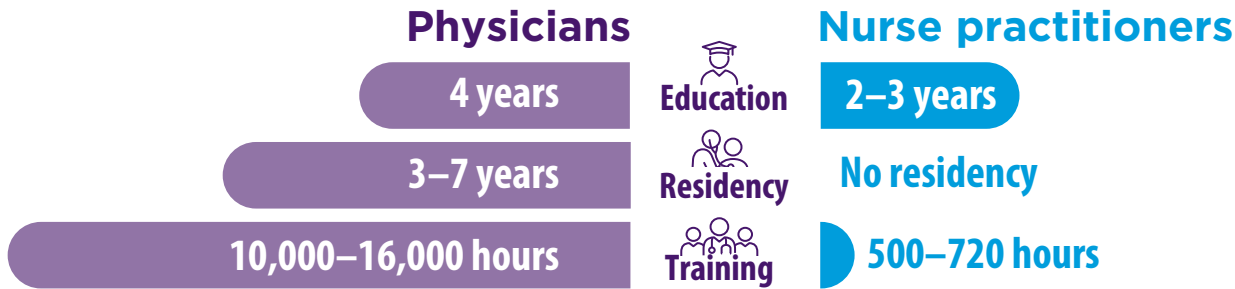


# Physicians are trained to lead

With the highest level of education and **20x** the clinical training



## Physician education

### Physician education is ...

**Comprehensive:** Studying all aspects of the human condition—biological, chemical, pharmacological and behavioral—in the classroom, laboratory and through direct patient care

**Hands-on:** Rotating through different specialties during medical school, assisting licensed physicians

**Established and proven:** Developing clinical judgment and medical decision-making skills through direct experience managing patients in all aspects of medicine

### Physician residency is ...

**Selective and specialized:** Newly graduated physicians match into residency programs for 3–7 years of training in a select surgical or medical specialty

**Reinforcing:** Newly graduated physicians move from direct supervision to progressively increased responsibility in guided preparation for independently practicing medicine

**Accredited:** All residency programs are highly standardized and must be accredited by ACGME, with graded and progressive responsibility at the core of American graduate medical education

### Physician assessment and certification are ...

**Thorough:** Students must pass a series of exams during and following graduation from medical school, with MDs taking the USMLE and DOs taking the COMLEX

**Validating:** After completing an accredited residency and establishing licensed practice, physicians may obtain board certification in various specialties to further demonstrate their mastery of knowledge in a specific field of medicine

## Nurse practitioner education

### Nurse practitioner education is ...

**Abbreviated:** NPs can complete a master's (MSN) or doctorate degree (DNP), with the majority completing a master's degree in 2–3 years

**Limited hands-on training:** 60% of NP programs are completely or partially online

**Not standardized:** Unlike physician education and training there is no standardization for obtaining practical experience in patient care

### Nurse practitioner residency is ...

**Not required** for graduation or licensure

### Nurse practitioner assessment and certification are ...

**Inconsistent:** NPs must pass a national certifying exam in a specific area of focus (based on the type of program from which the NP graduated) but they are not required to practice in that area—meaning an NP certified in primary care can practice in cardiology, dermatology, neurology, orthopedics, and other specialties without any additional formal education or training

Every health care professional has an important role to play in the high-stakes field of medicine. But these high stakes demand education, experience, acumen, coordination and the robust management of care found only with physician-led teams.