



**VA Health Care
Upstate New York**

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Canandaigua VA Medical Center
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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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National Nurse Practitioner Week is November 11-17

As the health care provider shortage continues to top the national agenda, it is important that the public be aware that there are more than 155,000 nurse practitioners in the United States who provide high quality, cost-effective, comprehensive patient-centered care to patients across the country. Of these more than 4,200 are nurse practitioners who work in VA medical centers and outpatient clinics. At the Canandaigua VA Medical Center and Rochester VA Outpatient Clinic, we work with nurse practitioners who are also reservists caring for active duty soldiers during their deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan.

Nurse practitioners are registered nurses who have at least a master's or doctoral degree in nursing and national certification in clinical advanced practice. Although Nurse Practitioners primarily are direct care providers, their activities also may include education, research, consultation and administration. In addition to providing a full range of health care services, nurse practitioners work as partners with their patients, guiding them to make educated health care decisions and healthy lifestyle choices. The confidence that patients have in nurse practitioner-delivered health care is evidenced by the more than 600 million visits to made to nurse practitioners every year.

National Nurse Practitioner Week is November 11-17 and is a time to celebrate these exceptional nurses. As it coincides with Veterans' Day, it is important to remember that VA nurse practitioners are Nursing Heroes who care for America's Heroes, Veterans who preserve our freedoms. Nurse Practitioners are informed, in touch and involved, making them the health care providers of choice for many patients and Veterans.

Check the Canandaigua VA Medical Center News Room @ <http://www.canandaigua.va.gov/newsroom/cannewsroom.asp> for more upcoming events.

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The Canandaigua VA Medical Center is located at 400 Fort Hill Avenue Canandaigua, NY.