

# At A Glance: Canadian Advance Practitioners Working in Cell Therapy

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## Background

Advanced practitioners (APs) include physician assistants, nurse practitioners and clinical assistants. APs work along side physicians, nurses and allied health in cell therapy, and play a critical role in the day to day operations of many transplant programs.

## Purpose

- To better understand the different roles advanced practitioners have working in cell therapy.
- To create more visibility of advanced practitioners.
- To promote the AP role.
- To initiate further educational needs and support to other programs with APs on their team.

## Methodology

A small questionnaire was sent to Cell Therapy Transplant Canada (CTTC) encouraging advanced practitioners to provide information on their profession, role and job description.

Advanced practitioners in Canada are important members in cell therapy centres.

With this survey, we more clearly understand APs roles and responsibilities on cell therapy teams, and the potential capabilities for growth and development.



## Results

There were 11 respondents. 7 nurse practitioners and 4 physician assistants.

APs have worked ranging from 1 to 15 years, averaging 10 years.

7 APs worked 8 hour shifts on weekdays. 1 worked 10 hour shifts. 4 APs had evening, weekend and call shifts.

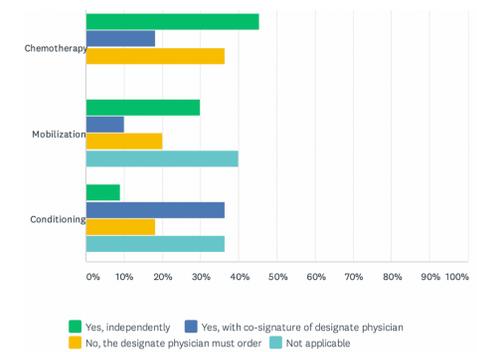
7 manage outpatient adult cell therapy, 6 manage inpatient adults and 1 manages outpatient and inpatient paediatric cell therapy.

10 manage autologous and all APs manage allogeneic transplants. 5 APs manage CAR-T, and 5 APs manages pre-transplant co-ordination.

The common AP role is managing patients through their transplant journey

The common procedures APs do are lumbar punctures, bone marrow biopsies & skin biopsies. Other procedures include paracentesis, thoracentesis & central line removal.

## What do advanced practitioners working in cell therapy prescribe?



## What the CTTC Advance Practitioners Committee wants

- To build a networking platform and to adapt nation wide tools concerning cell therapy.
- The platform will include job descriptions and roles at different sites.
- Share knowledge and best practice at each APs workplace.
- Didactic and clinical education specific to what APs manage.
- To promote the role of advance practitioners broadly amongst physicians and allied health.

## Acknowledgements

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