



Our Medical Providers

Why did I get scheduled with a particular provider?

Dr. Hopp's schedule is generally reserved for skin cancer surgeries which, because of their critical nature, take priority. It is usually easier to schedule initial/non-surgical appointments with one of his associate medical providers because of how far out his schedule is booked. When we book a non-surgical appointment with Dr. Hopp, there's a chance the patient may get bumped and rescheduled with an associate if there's a cancer surgery that needs to be done right away.

What is an ARNP?

ARNP stands for Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner, but please don't mistake these medical providers for "just a nurse." To be licensed as a Nurse Practitioner, the candidate must first complete the education and training necessary to be a registered nurse, then go on to complete a graduate-level nurse practitioner program (either a Master's or a Doctoral degree, some of which also require an additional residency), and then the candidate must pass a national board certification in their area of specialty. In most states, including Washington, these fully qualified healthcare providers can open their own medical practice and work independently without the supervision of a physician. Just like physicians, they can serve as a patient's primary health care provider, prescribe medications and other treatments, they can diagnose and treat acute and chronic conditions, they can order and interpret lab tests, and they can manage patient care. These medical professionals are highly educated and recognized as expert healthcare providers. All of our NPs have additional training and experience in dermatology, and some of them are Dermatology Certified Nurse Practitioners, DCNPs.

What's a PA-C?

PA-C stands for Physician Assistant-Certified. A physician assistant is a health professional licensed by the state and nationally certified to practice medicine as delegated by and with the supervision of a physician. PAs provide a broad range of medical and surgical services that traditionally have been performed by physicians. All PAs must graduate from a nationally accredited physician assistant program, then pass a national certification exam and be licensed by the state in which they practice. Physician assistants are trained in medicine just like physicians, and in many programs attend many of the same classes as medical students. PAs are not required to do an internship or residency. PAs must log 100 hours of continuing medical education every two years and take the national recertification exam every six years. Physician assistants can perform physical exams, diagnose and treat acute and chronic medical conditions, order and interpret diagnostic tests and prescribe medications and treatments.



Dr. Robert B. Hopp, MD

Dr. Hopp is a Board Certified Dermatologist, Dermatopathologist and Mohs Surgeon. He did his undergraduate work at the University of Washington where he graduated Phi Beta Kappa. He went to the Medical College of Wisconsin, interned at Emanuel Hospital and did his residency at the University of Colorado. He has been board certified in dermatology since 1986.



Chris Carpenter, PA-C

Chris received her Associate Degree in Applied Science in Nursing in 1977 from Columbia Basin College in Pasco. She worked as a registered nurse mainly in emergency medicine and nursing management, and was involved in teaching paramedic students and Advanced Cardiac Life Support for many years. Chris graduated from the Physician Assistant Program at the University of North Dakota's School of Medicine in Grand Forks, N.D., in 1997. Before starting to work here in October 2007, Chris worked in family practice, orthopedic and internal medicine.



Jennifer Corbin, PA-C

Jennifer received her undergraduate degree from Western Washington University and received her Masters of Science in Physician Assistant studies from Pacific University of Oregon. She has been practicing for 8 years as a PA-C in the Portland and Tri-Cities area, mainly in pediatrics, pediatric cardiology and emergency medicine.



Mary Lu Vait, DCNP

Mary Lu did her undergraduate work at Linn-Benton Community College in Albany, Ore., where she received her Associate Degree in Nursing in 1983, and at the Intercollegiate Center for Nursing Education at Washington State University's College of Nursing in Spokane where she received her Bachelors of Science degree in Nursing, graduating Cum Laude in 1999. She received her Masters of Science degree in Nursing from the same college in 2001, specializing as a Family Nurse Practitioner. Before starting to work here in August 2008, Mary Lu worked for six years in family practice and emergency care, and also at a Coumadin clinic. Mary Lu is a Dermatology Certified Nurse Practitioner.



Melissa Waterbury, DCNP

Melissa did her undergraduate work at Yakima Valley Community College, where she graduated with honors in 2004 with an Associate's Degree in Nursing, and Washington State University's Honors Intercollegiate College of Nursing where she graduated Magna Cum Laude in 2006 with a Bachelor's of Science degree in Nursing. She received her Masters of Science degree in Nursing from the same college, graduating Magna Cum Laude in 2008. Before starting work here in December 2008, Melissa trained in a post-anesthesia care unit, orthopedics, neurology, telemetry/cardiac care and an intensive care unit at Yakima Valley Memorial Hospital, Kennewick General Hospital and Kadlec Regional Medical Center from 2001-2008. Melissa is a Dermatology Certified Nurse Practitioner.



Rebecca Eng, ARNP

Rebecca did her undergraduate work at Eastern Washington University where she graduated in 1992 with a Bachelors of Science degree in Nursing. She worked as a registered nurse for more than 10 years as a home health and hospice nurse and an additional four years in oncology and hematology. In 2009, she completed a Masters in Nursing degree from Washington State University. Before starting work here in August 2012, Rebecca worked in family practice at Vista Family Health in Kennewick.



Julie Hereford, ARNP

Julie did her undergraduate work at Oregon Health and Science University, where she graduated Magna Cum Laude with a bachelor's degree in Nursing in 2002. In 2011, she completed her master's degree in nursing from Washington State University. Julie worked for 10 years as a registered nurse in the emergency department at Good Shepherd Medical Center, then worked as a family nurse practitioner in the same department. She started work here in May 2013. Julie works at our Hermiston office.