

**SUSSEX** is *Our*  
**COUNTY** Specialty

*Called to Heal:*

*The Role of the APC in Patient-Centered Care*

Dr. Amanda Connoyer, DNP, PMC-HI, APRN, FNP-C, CENP, FAPPex



## Chief Advanced Practice Clinician

# Dr. Amanda Connoyer

Dr. Connoyer received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. She then attended Saint Louis University, where she earned her Master of Science in Nursing as a family nurse practitioner. She also attended University of Illinois Chicago, where she completed her post-master's certificate in health informatics, then completed her DNP with a subspecialty in health systems leadership.

Dr. Connoyer is currently the Chief Advanced Practice Clinician for Beebe Healthcare in Sussex County. She is responsible for the systemwide strategy, recruitment, retention, and quality of care for APCs.

Prior to her work with Beebe Healthcare, Dr. Connoyer worked in internal medicine providing patient care to her local community and served as Director of APCs for a healthcare organization in Illinois. Over the last several years, she has held positions in nursing and advanced practice leadership, managed care, program development and informatics.

Dr. Connoyer is a member of multiple professional organizations, including ACHE, DCNP, AANP, AONL, ANA, APPex, Sigma Theta Tau, and AMGA where she has served on several committees in various roles.



# What is an Advanced Practice Clinician?

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Advanced Practice Clinicians (APCs) are healthcare professionals who have undergone specialized education and training beyond that of a traditional registered nurse or physician assistant. They play a crucial role in the healthcare system by providing high-quality care and improving patient access to medical services. APCs include various types of providers, such as:

- **Nurse Practitioners (NPs):** Registered nurses who have completed advanced education (master's or doctoral level) and are trained to provide primary and specialty care.
- **Physician Assistants (PAs):** Professionals who practice medicine under the supervision of physicians, capable of diagnosing and treating illnesses, prescribing medications, and performing certain procedures.
- **Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs):** Nurses specialized in anesthesia care.
- **Certified Nurse Midwives (CNMs):** Providers focused on women's reproductive health and childbirth.





## Key Statistics

### **Nurse Practitioners (NPs)**

US: 325,000+

Delaware: 2,831

### **Physician Assistants (PAs)**

US: 178,708

Delaware: 523

### **Certified Nurse Midwives (CNMs)**

US: 13,524

Delaware: 44

### **Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA)**

US: 47,800

Delaware: 175



# APC Education & Training

- All APCs earn a minimum of a master's degree in their specialty
  - about 6-8 years of education
- Many have pursued doctoral degrees
- In specialties, APC will generally take additional courses or fellowships
- Robust onboarding in their specialty



# Responsibility of the APC

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- APPs are equipped to perform a variety of tasks, including:
  - Conducting physical exams and taking medical histories.
  - Diagnosing and treating acute and chronic conditions.
  - Ordering and interpreting diagnostic tests.
  - Prescribing medications and developing/managing treatment plans.
  - Providing patient education and counseling.
  - Provide care to the acutely ill in the hospital.
  - First assist in surgery with surgeons of varying specialties.

# Where APCs Provide Care

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- Primary Care Practices
- Specialty Ambulatory Practices
- Hospital-based Specialists
- Hospital-based Surgery
- Leadership



# Primary Care

- Management of acute and chronic health conditions in the outpatient setting, including school-based wellness programs
  - Chronic Conditions
    - Diabetes
    - Hypertension
  - Acute Conditions
    - Ear infection
    - Rash
    - Pain
  - Management of preventative health and screenings
    - Annual wellness check-up
    - Vaccines



# Medical Specialties

- Management of acute and chronic specialized health conditions, both in the hospital and outpatient settings
  - Population Health
  - Walk-in Clinics
  - Endocrinology
  - Cardiology
  - Oncology
  - Certified Nurse Midwives
  - Women's Health
  - School-based Wellness Programs
  - Palliative Care
  - Neurology
  - Gastroenterology
  - Urology
  - Infectious Disease



# Surgical Specialties

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- Care for patient before, during and after surgical procedures in the hospital and outpatient.
  - General surgery
  - Neurosurgery
  - Robotics
  - Urology
  - Surgical Oncology
  - Radiology
  - Cardiothoracic
- Surgical first assist



# Acute Care

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- Management of acutely ill patients requiring hospitalization
  - Critical Care
  - Hospitalist
  - Specialty care
    - Cardiology
    - Vascular
    - Palliative Care
    - Oncology
    - Anesthesia
    - Neurology
    - Urology
    - Gastroenterology



# Role of the APC leaders

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- Oversight of Beebe APCs across all specialties
  - Quality
  - Mentorship
  - Education/training
  - Onboarding
  - Compliance
  - Growth
  - Scope of practice
  - Lobbying with local agencies



# Quality Improvement and Patient Safety

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- Leading initiatives aimed at improving care quality and patient safety.
  - APC lead subcommittees
    - Antibiotic stewardship
    - Diabetes
    - Professional Development
- Implementing quality metrics and performance improvement strategies.
- Using data to drive decision-making and measure outcomes.



# References

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- [EssentialFactsAboutMidwives Final 2022.pdf \(midwife.org\)](#)
- [https://www.amcbmidwife.org/docs/default-source/reports/number-of-cnm-cm-by-state---february-2019-present607d50819fd7410f84b748c059e9a2d9.pdf?sfvrsn=cce5f80\\_6](#)
- [2023-Statistical-Profile-of-Board-Certified-PAs5\\_3\\_24.pdf \(nccpa.net\)](#)
- [Nurse Anesthetists \(bls.gov\)](#)
- [Delaware's Pathway to Achieving APRN Consensus - Journal of Nursing Regulation](#)

# QUESTIONS?

[beebehealthcare.org](http://beebehealthcare.org)

