



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF  
CLINICAL NURSE SPECIALISTS

January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2012

Dear Nursing Colleague:

The purpose of this letter is to seek your organization's endorsement of the *Criteria for the Evaluation of Clinical Nurse Specialist Master's, Practice Doctorate, and Post-Graduate Certificate Educational Programs*.

This project was designed to develop and disseminate criteria to guide the development, implementation and evaluation of Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) programs in the U.S.

This project adapted a previously-validated consensus-building process (US Department of Health and Human Service, 2002) that was initially developed in consultation with a nationally-recognized expert in higher education assessment and used to develop and validate national consensus-based primary care nurse practitioner competencies in five specialty areas (APRN Consensus Work Group, 2008). The current project utilized the expertise of a variety of stakeholders and included assessment of current documents and existing models to inform the process and anticipate barriers to implementing the final recommendations. An NACNS Board-appointed Task Force of experts developed the initial document (referred to as *Guidelines*), and the NACNS Board then appointed the Validation Panel, whose members represented various stakeholder groups and organizations, to provide input and validation and to revise the initial *Guidelines* as needed.

#### **Endorsement**

The validated *Guidelines* are found in the attached document. We seek your endorsement by **April 13, 2012**. In order to indicate your organization's endorsement, please email, mail, or fax a letter of endorsement to:

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Managing Director  
NACNS  
100 North 20<sup>th</sup> Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Philadelphia, PA 19103  
Phone: 215-320-3881  
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If you have questions about this request, please contact Ethan Gray.

Thank you for your support of this national endeavor.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen Patten". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Stephen Patten, MSN, RN, CNS, CNOR  
President