Who We Are

CLINICAL NURSE SPECIALISTS (CNS)

• Clinical Nurse Specialists (CNS) are licensed registered nurses who have graduate preparation (Master’s or Doctorate) in nursing as a Clinical Nurse Specialist.

• Clinical Nurse Specialists are expert clinicians in a specialized area of nursing practice. The specialty may be identified in terms of a:
  – Population (e.g. pediatrics, geriatrics, women’s health)
  – Setting (e.g. critical care, emergency room)
  – Disease or Medical Subspecialty (e.g. diabetes, oncology)
  – Type of Care (e.g. psychiatric, rehabilitation)
  – Type of Problem (e.g. pain, wounds, stress)
• Clinical Nurse Specialists practice in a wide variety of health care settings.

• In addition to providing direct patient care, Clinical Nurse Specialists influence care outcomes by providing expert consultation for nursing staffs and by implementing improvements in health care delivery systems.

• Clinical Nurse Specialist practice integrates nursing practice, which focuses on assisting patients in the prevention or resolution of illness, with medical diagnosis and treatment of disease, injury and disability
• CNS practice is conceptualized across three spheres in which the CNS exerts influence:
  – Patients/clients
  – Nursing standards and nursing personnel
  – Systems

• Expert nursing practice in the patient/client sphere provides the underpinnings for CNS practice.
Outcomes of CNS Practice

- Reduced Hospital Costs and Length of Stay
- Reduced Frequency of Emergency Room Visits
- Improved Pain Management Practices
- Increased Patient Satisfaction with Nursing Care
- Reduced Medical Complications in Hospitalized Patients
CNS Statistics

- An estimated 69,017 RNs have the education and credentials to practice as a clinical nurse specialist (CNS). Approximately 14,643 are qualified to work as a nurse practitioner and a CNS. (According to a fact sheet adapted by the American Nurses Association from the 2000 National Sample Survey of RNs)

- Depending upon the region of the country and clinical specialty, CNS salaries range from $65,000 to over $100,000 annually.
MISSION: To enhance and promote the unique, high value contribution of the clinical nurse specialist to the health and well-being of individuals, families, groups and communities, and to promote and advance the practice of nursing.

ESTABLISHED: Sept. 30/Oct. 1, 1995, in Indianapolis, IN
HERITAGE: Grew out of commitment from grassroots national representation of CNSs meeting collectively over a 6 year period at a biannual CNS conference sponsored in the Midwest by the Indiana University School of Nursing

NACNS is the first organization to represent CNSs and is responsible for clarification & dissemination of the nature of CNS practice within the US.
Strategic Goals

- Increase national visibility and influence of CNSs.
- Promote the growth and development of NACNS.
- Provide a national forum for CNSs.
- Establish NACNS as the national authority for CNS practice, education, and research.
- Promote the role of the CNS in delivery of safe, quality, cost effective health care.
STUDENT: Individuals who are pursuing graduate education in nursing

- Enrolled full-time or part-time in a master’s degree program that prepares clinical nurse specialists OR Enrolled full-time in a doctoral program in nursing.

- Discounted membership fee of $65.

- Individual receives all membership benefits: not eligible to vote or hold office.
Membership Categories

**REGULAR**: Individuals who have:

- A valid registered nurse’s license

- A master’s degree in nursing from an accredited program that prepares clinical nurse specialists

  OR

- A master’s degree in an area that supports the skills and competencies of clinical nurse specialists.

- A regular member is eligible to vote, hold office and serve on committees
Membership Benefits

• A subscription to *Clinical Nurse Specialist: The Journal for Advanced Nursing Practice* — 6 issues annually (a $91.95 value)

• The NACNS Newsletter, published in the Journal, providing an update of the organization’s activities

• An annual NACNS membership directory, listing members by state and specialty

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Membership Benefits

• Reduced registration rates for the annual NACNS Conference

• Opportunities to be involved at a national level on committees that directly impact the NACNS and ultimately CNS practice across the country

• Assistance in the development of regional and local NACNS affiliates

(continued)
Membership Benefits

- Discount fees for ANCC CNS exams
- Networking
- Representation in policy forums addressing your concerns about regulation, certification, reimbursement and other legislative and regulatory issues
- Communication via the NACNS website
Current initiatives include:

• Implement a multifaceted strategy to define, collect and publicize national data pertaining to CNS education, practice, and regulation.

• Annual CNS Regulatory Summit for organizations with sizeable number of CNSs in their membership and agencies that offer CNS certification. (July, 2004)

• Implement CNS Education Program review.

• Publish the definition/description of the similarities and differences in CNS and NP practice.

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National Leadership Role

• Design, with ANCC, a model and process for CNS certification, including core exam and portfolio

• State based advocacy to achieve appropriate regulation of CNSs.

• Collaboration with the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) on the 2004-2005 survey of graduate education programs

• Year 2 Implementation of a project funded by the American Nurses Association and the Harford Institute to increase competence in geriatric nursing care.
Your Opportunities for Growth
through participation in NACNS

• Communications and Marketing Committee
• Legislative/Regulatory Committee
• Membership Committee
• Nominating Committee
• Practice Committee
• Publications Committee
• Research Committee
• Mentorship Program
Membership Fee Structure

Joining is a bargain, considering all the benefits you receive.

STUDENT MEMBERSHIP: $65.00

REGULAR MEMBERSHIP: $110.00
Contact Information

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JOIN TODAY! Membership applications are easy to get, simple to complete and convenient to submit.

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