Clinical nurse specialists use their knowledge and commitment to evidence-based practice to help organizations achieve excellence in patient care, service and value. They are essential members of the leadership team.

Linda Burnes Bolton, DrPH, RN, FAAN
Vice President, Nursing & Chief Nursing Officer
Cedars-Sinai

The rare combination of leadership, passion for teaching, and clinical expertise is what makes CNSs such a valuable resource. There is no way that any significant change in patient care could move forward without them. They not only serve as teachers for their fellow nurses, but also for the physicians who are lucky enough to work with them.

Dan Negoianu, MD
Assistant Professor of Medicine
Medical Director, Inpatient Dialysis
Director, ICU Nephrology
Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania

Clinical nurse specialists play an integral role on the leadership team. Their expertise in practice and quality are drivers for patient outcomes. It is a pleasure to partner and collaborate with clinical nurse specialists on everyday projects and system wide initiatives.

Jill E. Gehman, MHA, RN, BSN, NEA-BC
Associate Clinical Director,
Cardiovascular Nursing
Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania

In our organization, our clinical nurse specialists are an essential resource for our patients, nurses and physicians, and hospital system. They are both consulted and viewed as the specialized nurse who knows the answers, or can quickly find evidence-based solutions for complicated patient situations and health care processes. I have found these advanced practice nurses to be indispensable team members in our health system, completely focused on advocating for the best care for our patients.

Carol Danielson,
RN, BSN, MHA, FACHE, NEA-BC
Senior Vice President/Chief Nurse Executive
Gwinnett Health System

"Discover CNSs — the nursing clinical experts who will improve your health care environment."
WHAT IS A CLINICAL NURSE SPECIALIST?

A clinical nurse specialist (CNS) is an advanced practice registered nurse (APRN). CNSs hold graduate nursing degrees and are experts in a particular specialty, such as population (e.g. pediatrics), type of problem (e.g. wound care), setting (e.g. Intensive Care Unit), type of care (e.g. rehabilitation), or disease (e.g. diabetes). They can work in any number of settings, such as a hospital, private practice, or a clinic.

Regardless of specialty or setting, CNSs provide leadership in clinical expertise, nursing practice, and systems innovation.

CNSs diagnose, develop plans of care for, treat, and provide ongoing management of complex patients. In many states, the CNS can prescribe medications, and durable medical equipment and therapies. They also provide expertise and support to bedside nurses, help drive practice changes throughout the organization, and ensure the use of best practices and evidence-based care to achieve the best possible patient outcomes.

CNSs have the skills and expertise to identify gaps in health care delivery. They have the expertise to help design, implement, assess and evaluate health care interventions to improve health care delivery and outcomes.

HOW DOES THE CNS ENHANCE THE CLINICAL ENVIRONMENT?

- Advocates for cost-effective and quality patient outcomes
- Promotes patient safety
- Serves as a patient advocate
- Facilitates use of evidence-based practice
- Leads in attaining magnet status
- Assists with staff retention through mentoring
- Raises the standard of patient care
- Reduces costs through decrease in re-admissions
- Assures compliance with state and federal healthcare guidelines

WHAT STRENGTHS DOES THE CNS BRING TO THE WORKPLACE?

- Knowledge of performance-based reimbursement
- Possesses specialty-focused clinical expertise
- Expert in nursing practice leadership
- Adept at team-based care and collaboration
- Understanding of transitional care needs
- Skills to consult with patients, nurses and other colleagues on health care team
- Systems change expertise
- Systems and process analysis

For more information on how a CNS can meet your institution’s vision and goals please visit www.nacns.org.