



Get the Facts About CNS Week!

- Hildegard Peplau, RN, Ed.D. (1909 – 1999), is the founding mother of the clinical nurse specialist (CNS) role. In 1956, Dr. Peplau established the first nursing Master’s Degree program with a focus exclusively on clinical practice. Graduates of this program were called clinical specialists. Rutgers University School of Nursing is the birthplace of the CNS role.
- Dr. Peplau emphasized the nurse-client *relationship* as the foundation for nursing practice, and the important partnership model that focused on shared experience through observation, description, formulation, interpretation, validation and intervention.

Get the Facts About the CNS Role!

- An estimated 72,000 Clinical Nurse Specialists practice in the U.S. They are licensed advanced practice registered nurses who hold masters and/or doctoral degrees in nursing.
- CNSs are expert clinicians in a specialized area of nursing practice. The specialty may be identified in terms of a population (ex. pediatrics), a setting (ex. emergency dept.), a disease or medical subspecialty (ex. Diabetes), type of care (ex. psychiatric), or type of problem (ex. pain).
- According to the 2016 CNS Census, the vast majority of CNSs (88%) work full-time and four in five (80%) work in hospital settings. Of those, more than half (58%) have responsibility across the entire hospital system or system-wide. Others have a span of influence that covers one or two units.

- Daily activities for clinical nurse specialists vary. As a group, the 2016 CNS Census found that CNSs spend most of their time providing direct patient care (22%), teaching nurses and staff (20%), consulting with nurses, staff and others (20%), leading evidence-based practice projects (14%) and assisting other nurses and staff with direct patient care (12%).
- As leaders in health care settings, CNSs provide direct patient care and lead initiatives to improve care and clinical outcomes, and reduce costs.
- Examples of outcomes of CNS practice include: reduced medical complications in hospitalized patients; reduced hospital costs and length of stays; improved pain management practices; increased patient satisfaction with nursing care; and reduced frequency of emergency room visits.

Get the Facts About NACNS!

- Founded in 1995, The National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists is the only association representing the clinical nurse specialist.
- NACNS is dedicated to advancing CNS practice and education, removing certification and regulatory barriers, and assuring the public access to quality CNS services.



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