### Key Findings from the 2016 Clinical Nurse Specialists Census

*(Based on responses from 3,118 CNSs)*

#### Employment

**Nearly 9 in 10 CNSs work full time.**
What is your employment status?

- **FULLTIME**: 88.1%
- **PART TIME**: 9.6%
- **OTHER**: 2.3%

**8 in 10 CNSs work in an acute care hospital.**
Are you employed in an acute care hospital?

- **YES**: 79.8%
- **NO**: 20.2%

**CNSs work in a variety of settings, but most are based in hospitals.**
What is your primary work setting?

- **Hospital (Non-federal)**: 41.5%
- **Hospital (Federal)**: 2.3%
- **Hospital (Veteran’s)**: 5.6%
- **Nursing Education**: 9.5%
- **Academic Health Center (Rural and urban)**: 28%
- **Ambulatory Care**: 3.4%

#### Reimbursement

**The vast majority of CNSs do not bill directly for their services.**
Do you directly bill a third party payor or client for your CNS services?

- **NO**: 93.8%
- **YES**: 6.2%

**CNSs are more likely to bill private insurance companies, Medicare and Medicaid rather than individual patients.**
Whom do you bill?

- **Private insurance**: 78.8%
- **Medicare**: 74.5%
- **Medicaid**: 66.7%
- **Individual patient**: 53.3%

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More than half of CNSs who work in hospitals have responsibility for an entire system. How many units/systems do you have responsibility for?

- **1 unit**: 18.1%
- **2 or more units but NOT system wide**: 23.6%
- **System-wide ONLY**: 22.4%
- **System-wide plus 1 specific unit**: 14.0%
- **System-wide plus 2 or more units**: 21.8%

Most CNSs work in hospitals that are either accredited by the ANCC’s Magnet™ Recognition Program or are seeking accreditation.

Does your employer have ANCC Magnet™ Recognition or plan to seek it?

- **Has magnet status**: 50.3%
- **Seeking magnet status**: 23.7%
- **Not seeking magnet status**: 22.9%
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**PRACTICE**

CNSs provide care in a range of specialties.
Based on the APRN Consensus Model’s certification for licensure based on patient population, what is the population foci that best represents your practice?

- Adult Health/Gerontology: 74.8%
- 4.1% Psychiatric/Mental Health
- 6.4% Family/Individual Across the Lifespan
- 7.1% Pediatric
- 3.6% Neonatal
- 3.8% Women’s Health/Gender Specific

CNSs have a range of duties from providing direct patient care to managing care to leading research to nurse education.
What is the percentage of time you estimate that you spent on the following activities last year?

- 22% Provide direct patient care
- 19.8% Teach nurses/staff
- 19.5% Consult to nurses/staff/others
- 14.6% Lead evidence-based practice (EBP) projects
- 11.5% Assist other nurses/staff with direct patient care
- 10.7% Assist with EBP projects
- 9.1% Teach patients/families
- 6.4% Precept students
- 5.8% Assist with research
- 4.9% Conduct research as the primary investigator (PI)
- 3.9% Teach in the community
- 3.2% Provide transitional care
- 31.6% Other

**EDUCATION**

In addition to a master’s degree, more than 1 in 10 CNSs also holds a doctorate.
What is the highest nursing degree you currently hold?

- MSN: 61.8%
- MS: 16.2%
- DNP: 8.4%
- PhD: 6.9%
- MA: 0.5%
- ND: 0.1%
- DNS/DNSc: 0.1%
- Other: 6%

2 in 3 CNSs are nationally certified.
Do you currently have a national certification as a CNS?

- Yes: 67.7%
- No: 26.3%
- There is no certification available for my specialty: 6%

**DEMOGRAPHICS**

Race/ethnicity

- White: 85.1%
- Black/African American: 4.2%
- Asian/Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander: 3.3%
- Hispanic/Latino: 2.8%
- American Indian or Alaska Native: 0.3%
- Two or more races: 1.4%

Gender

- Female: 93.5%
- Male: 5.7%

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PRESCRIPTIVE AUTHORITY

1 in 5 CNSs is authorized to prescribe medications. State laws address whether or not advanced practice registered nurses, such as CNSs, can prescribe medications. Do you currently have prescriptive privileges?

- NO 78.8%
- YES 21.2%

Of those CNSs who have prescriptive authority, more than half use it. Do you currently prescribe drugs in your practice?

- NO 39.1%
- YES 60.9%

Most CNSs who are authorized to prescribe live in a state that requires a pharmacology course. What are the educational requirements to obtain prescriptive authority where you live?

- Pharmacology course 92.1%
- Graduate supervised clinical hours 53.0%
- Post graduate supervised prescribing hours 27.6%
- Other 8.9%

The vast majority of CNSs are not authorized to prescribe medical equipment. Are you currently authorized to prescribe durable medical equipment or other equipment?

- NO 83.3%
- YES 16.7%

Nearly half of CNSs who can prescribe medical equipment, do. Do you prescribe durable medical equipment in your practice?

- YES 46.9%
- NO 53.1%

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