



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF  
CLINICAL NURSE SPECIALISTS

# 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)

## Who We Are (continued)

- 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

# Who We Are (continued)

- 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.



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**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.

# Membership Categories

**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

# National Leadership Role

## 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



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF  
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## NATIONAL OFFICE

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EXECUTIVE

DIRECTOR

Christine Carson Filipovich MSN, RN

# Membership Applications



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

**PHONE** (717) 234-6799  
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