Clinical nurse specialists provide advanced care to patients within a specialty area (direct care) and improve nursing outcomes and system processes (indirect care).

- Are you passionate about improving nursing practice?
- Do you speak up when you see a problem?
- Are you an advocate for patients, families, & nurses?
- Do you enjoy teaching patients, families, & nurses?
- Do you become bothered by workplace issues that need to be fixed?
- Do others come to you to solve problems?
- Do you enjoy collaborating with others?
- Do you have expertise or certification in a certain area of practice?

If you answered “Yes” to any of these questions, you should consider becoming a CNS.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

- CNSs are one of the 4 advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs)-clinical nurse specialists, certified nurse midwives, nurse anesthetists, certified nurse practitioners.
- CNSs can prescribe and bill for services according to Medicare laws and rules. (State laws and rules vary, but many have the same rules for CNSs and NPs.)
- CNSs work in acute care, outpatient/ambulatory settings, home health care, or as consultants/entrepreneurs.
- CNSs practice in 3 spheres of impact (patient, nurse, and systems) to provide advanced care, improve nursing practice, streamline system processes, and reduce costs.
- The demand for CNSs has increased and will continue to increase.

If you have answered “Yes” to any of these questions, you should consider becoming a CNS.

**Clinical Nurse Specialists work within 3 Spheres of Impact to ensure the highest quality of care:**

- **Patient Direct Care**
  - CNSs provide direct specialized care to patients and assist other nurses with direct patient care.
- **Nurses and Nursing Practice**
  - CNSs are go-to experts for other nurses in the practice area and serve as teachers and mentors to ensure standards of patient care are met.
- **Organizations/Systems**
  - CNSs work with interdisciplinary teams to make improvements within their organizations, such as implementing new evidence-based practice guidelines.

**CNS CORE COMPETENCIES**

- **Specialty Practice**
- **Patient Direct Care**
- **Nurses and Nursing Practice**
- **Organizations/Systems**
- **Reduction Direct Care**
- **Specialty Skills/Competencies**

**Articles comparing APRN roles:**

