

What are Clinical Nurse Specialists?

Clinical Nurse Specialists (CNS) are Advanced Practice Nurses (APNs) who have specialized in an area of healthcare practice. They are masters or doctorally prepared clinicians who practice healthcare autonomously and collaboratively with other health care professionals. Many provide healthcare to individual patients and their families. Many work in academics and conduct research. Some are hospital or clinic based educators and consultants. All have an at least one or more areas of expertise or specialty.

The intent of the CNS role is to provide excellent advanced practice nursing which improves the quality and access to health care for individuals, the community and the general public.

Clinical nurse specialists like Nurse Practitioners, Nurse Midwives and Nurse Anesthetists - obtain national certification and are given authority to practice as APNs through their State board of nurse examiners. Some have chosen to obtain prescriptive authority, while others have not.

The spheres of influence of the CNS include: nurses and nursing practice; organizations and systems; and, direct patient / client care. Expert clinical practice is the heart of CNS care.

You may make an appointment to speak with one of our faculty Clinical Nurse Specialists for further information or access the websites below.

National Association of Clinical Nurses Specialists: www.nacns.org/

Clinical Nurse Specialists of Central Texas: www.cnsct.org/

Coalition for Nurses in Advanced Practice: www.cnaptexas.org/

The Texas Board of Nurse Examiners: www.bne.state.tx.gov/