

CNS Prescriptive Authority Fact Sheet



Chesapeake Bay Affiliate of the National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists



What is a CNS?

A Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) is a Master or Doctorate prepared Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) whose role is to improve outcomes in patient care. The CNS is an expert in clinical practice, patient education, research, evidence-based practice, consultation, and influences the three spheres of impact: patient care, nursing, and systems.

What is Prescriptive Authority?

Prescriptive authority is the ability to order medicines, imaging, bloodwork, physical therapy, occupational therapy, home care, home health supplies, hospice care, and more.

Why do Marylanders need CNS Prescriptive Authority?

- Expanded Access to Care - especially for vulnerable populations
 - Close the gaps that the COVID pandemic has exposed in our healthcare system
 - Address Health Equity - equal access to high-quality care for underserved populations
- Create cost savings for hospital, patients, insurance companies and communities
- Improve patient safety - prevent delay in needed care
 - Improve health care delivery by assisting with transitions from hospital to home care

There is a Disconnect between Federal and Maryland Law

- CNSs have authority to prescribe buprenorphine (Suboxone/Subutex) through the SUPPORT Act.
- CNSs are permanently authorized by the CARES Act to order home care, home health supplies, hospice care, and can be reimbursed for services.

Maryland is at risk for losing CNSs

Pennsylvania, Virginia, Delaware, D.C. and 36 other states have CNS prescriptive authority.



Support prescriptive authority for Clinical Nurse Specialists and build a better healthcare system for Maryland



Scan for more information & real-world stories. Questions?
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