

House Bill 276 – Health Occupations – Clinical
Nurse Specialists – Prescribing Authority

Position: Support

Dear Chairman Pendergrass and Members of the Health and Government Operations Committee,

As the Chief Nurse Executive of University of Maryland Medical System, I am asking for your support for Delegate Cullison’s bill, HB 276 titled Health Occupations – Clinical Nurse Specialists – Prescribing Authority.

Clinical Nurse Specialists (CNSs) are well-educated, advanced practice nurses and important members of the healthcare team. It is the right of every patient to have easy access to safe, affordable and efficient quality healthcare. 39 states already grant CNSs prescriptive authority. This is consistent with the Institute of Medicine Future of Nursing report’s goal to remove barriers to practice and care.

We need to give CNSs the tools they need to work effectively for the people of Maryland.

Below you will find a CNS fact sheet with the importance of the Clinical Nurse Specialist Role related to prescriptive authority (note: QR Code in left lower corner of the fact sheet takes you to pertinent supporting documents and real stories told by Maryland CNSs).

I support HB276 and encourage you to do the same.

Sincerely,



Lisa Rowen

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?
MD.CNS.RX@gmail.com
<https://cbanacns.enpnetwork.com>

MAAPC proudly supports our CNS Colleagues!
TheMAAPC@gmail.com
<https://maapconline.enpnetwork.com>

