

CERTIFICATION INFORMATION FOR CLINICAL NURSE SPECIALISTS (CNS)

On July 20, 2007, Governor Rendell signed into law Act 49 of 2007. This act amends the Professional Nursing Law to provide official recognition of the Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS).

Regulations to implement the Law were published in the PA Bulletin on July 17, 2010 and can be accessed at www.pabulletin.com.

For detailed CNS certification requirements please refer to the CNS application on the Board website at www.dos.state.pa.us/nurse.

REQUIREMENTS

EDUCATION REQUIREMENT – The applicant must complete a Board-approved clinical nurse specialist program **OR** an educational program in a related discipline previously recognized for national certification as a CNS **OR** an equivalent program outside Pennsylvania.

NATIONAL CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENT

- A) The applicant must be currently certified as a clinical nurse specialist from a national certification organization listed below* which required the passing of a national certifying examination in the specialty in which the applicant is seeking certification by the Board.
Request that verification of current national certification be sent directly to the State Board of Nursing from the national certification organization. Copies from the applicant are not acceptable.

***National Certification Organization**

American Nurse Credentialing Center (ANCC)

American Association of Critical Care Nurses (AACN)

Orthopedic Nurses Certification Board (ONCB)

Oncology Nursing Certification Corporation (ONCC)

- B) Only if the applicant is not eligible for national certification, the applicant should submit the following:
- an official transcript of the educational program accredited by the NLNAC or CCNE for preparing a professional nurse to practice as a CNS.
 - course descriptions of that educational program.
 - current curriculum vitae.
 - work history in the CNS role.
 - three professional recommendations from individuals knowledgeable about the applicant's work experience in the CNS role.
 - any additional advanced nursing education official transcripts.
 - current national nursing certification(s).
 - any additional information requested by the Board.

Supporting documentation must be sent directly to the Board.

NOTE: All applicants who qualify under section B will receive the designation "Without Specialty" on their CNS certificate.

Liability coverage information:

A clinical nurse specialist practicing in this Commonwealth shall maintain a level of professional liability coverage as required for a nonparticipating health care provider under the act of March 20, 2002 (P.L.154, No. 13) known as the “Medical Care Availability and Reduction or Error (Mcare) Act...”(Professional Nursing Law Section 8.5(e)).

Scope of Practice:

Section 8.6 of the Professional Nursing Law provides that the CNS may not engage in the practice of medicine or surgery as defined in the act of December 20, 1985 (P.L. 457, No. 112), known as the “Medical Practice Act of 1985”; perform acts of medical diagnosis; or prescribe medical therapeutic or corrective measures. The restrictions in the subsection apply to both physical and mental disorders. A CNS may engage in activities which normally constitute the practice of nursing, including a nursing diagnosis.