

CNSSNZ Position Statement: Clinical Nurse Specialist versus Specialist Nurse

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Clinical Nurse Specialist versus Specialist Nurse

Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) is an experienced Registered Nurse who works as a clinical expert in a specialised area of healthcare. A CNS utilises advanced nursing knowledge, evidence-based research and critical thinking to influence nursing practice and improve patient outcomes. A CNS is a clinical leader who oversees clinical care and is involved in research, education, and policy development at local and national level. The CNS role is underpinned by post graduate study at master's level

Specialist Nurse/Speciality Clinical Nurse is a registered general nurse who has become proficient in a clinical setting with a specific interest and extensive experience in a specialist field of nursing. This is a designated senior nurse position. He/she may have completed an education programme/module that meets the prescribed standard of specialist nursing. The specialist nurse use in depth knowledge to provide nursing care and expertise in both delivering direct patient care supporting other staff caring for patients within communities and inpatient settings with the speciality/specific condition. Focus is on enhancing health outcomes for patients/clients by working with them directly providing assessment, care, and education within the speciality. As a senior nurse the specialist nurse contributes to development and attainment of service specific pathways, protocols and guidelines that reflect best practice in accordance with relevant standards.

Key Documents

Nurse Executives of New Zealand Inc. (2019) Position statement: Advanced Clinical Practice. Retrieved from <https://www.nurseexecutivesnz.org.nz>

International Council of Nurses. (2020). Guidelines on advanced Practice Nursing. Retrieved from <https://www.icn.ch>