



CNSSNZ: Position Statement RN Prescribing for the CNS

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The Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) is an experienced Registered Nurse (RN) who works as a clinical expert in a specialised area of health care. A CNS utilises advanced nursing knowledge, evidence based research and critical thinking to influence nursing practice and to improve patient outcomes (CNSSNZ, 2021).

RN prescribing is an authorisation from the Nursing Council of New Zealand (NCNZ) for nurses working in primary health and speciality teams to prescribe from a schedule of medicines for common and long term conditions. These nurses have undergone completion of an approved post – graduate diploma programme, and work within a collaborative team in these settings. RN’s working in community health may be authorised from NCNZ to prescribe from a limited schedule of medicines for minor ailments and illnesses in normally health individuals, following completion of an approved programme and will also be working within a collaborative team (NCNZ, 2021).

The CNS uses advanced specialised clinical knowledge to practice within defined speciality areas (Nurse Executives of New Zealand Inc., 2019). The CNSSNZ recognises that the CNS practices across a diverse range of clinical settings and RN prescribing can benefit and enhance delivery of care to patients due to the nature of the speciality or area of practice. While it is seen that prescribing may form one part of the CNS role it is not applicable to all CNS roles and it is not seen as core component of the CNS role.

References:

- Clinical Nurse Specialist Society of New Zealand. (2021). CNSSNZ CNS definition. Retrieved from <https://www.cnssnz.org>.
- Nursing Council of New Zealand. (2021). Registered nurse prescribing. Retrieved from <https://www.nursingcouncil.org.nz>
- Nurse Executives of New Zealand. (2019). Position statement. Advanced clinical roles. Retrieved from <https://www.nurseexecutivesnz.org.nz/resources>