

Clinical Nurse Specialist



A pediatric clinical nurse specialist (CNS) is an advanced practice registered nurse who has graduate level education to provide direct care, diagnoses, and treatment for patients. As leaders in evidence-based practice across the continuum of wellness and illness, CNSs can work in acute care settings such as hospitals, but they also practice in primary care.



Expert in operations and patient care



Passionate about quality improvement



Advocate for nurse and patient resources



Provide patient and staff education and resources

Keywords

- Advanced practice nurse
- Evidence-based practice
- Optimize nursing care
- Identify and address gaps
- Interdisciplinary collaboration

Career Steps

1

Gain 1+ years of experience as a registered nurse in pediatrics.

2

Obtain your masters (MSN) or doctorate of nursing practice (DNP) degree as a CNS from an accredited university program.

3

Pass the national Acute Care CNS - Pediatrics (ACCNS-P) certification exam and apply for state licensure as a CNS.

4

Start your job search at PNCB's career center: <https://careers.pncb.org/jobseekers/> using terms CNS, clinical nurse specialist, or advanced practice nurse.

5

Connect with other CNSs for mentoring, collaboration, conferences, and advocacy by joining your professional membership association: the [National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists](#).



Links for further reading

- What is a CNS? [What is a CNS? | NACNS :: National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists](#)
- How to Become a CNS: Unlock the Clinical Nurse Specialist Requirements With 6 Realistic Steps [How to Become a CNS: Unlock the Clinical Nurse Specialist Requirements With 6 Realistic Steps – FRESHRN](#)
- The American Association of Critical-Care Nurses. The ACCNS-P (Pediatric) board certification. [ACCNS Pediatric Certification - AACN](#)



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Explore pediatric nursing careers at [ipedsnursing.org](https://www.ipedsnursing.org)

Earn pediatric nurse certification at [pncb.org](https://www.pncb.org)