

**CLARIFYING PRESCRIPTIVE AUTHORITY**

**What is a** **Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS)?**

The “Clinical Nurse Specialist” is an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN). Clinical nurse specialists are advanced practice registered nurses who have graduate preparation (Master’s or Doctorate) in nursing. consistent with the standards of specialist practice and who are jointly licensed by the Virginia Boards of Medicine and Nursing. The clinical nurse specialist has been a part of health care for more than 60 years.

**What does a Clinical Nurse Specialist do?**

* CNSs are trained in advanced physiology, pharmacology, and physical assessment, as other APRNs are, in addition to their specialty areas
* CNSs can prescribe and bill like other APRNs as allowed by state regulations
* CNSs diagnosis and treat acute or chronic illness with emphasis on specialist care for at-risk patients or populations, from wellness to illness and acute to primary care
* CNSs provide expertise and support to bedside nurses caring for patients, while driving practice changes throughout healthcare organizations to ensure the use of evidence-based practice and research to achieve the best possible patient outcomes

**Why eliminate joint board oversight of APRNs?**

* Remove unnecessary layers of nursing regulations of the Joint Boards of Medicine and Nursing
* Provide regulation solely under the Board of Nursing
* Align with recommendations made in the 2021 study of APRNs by the Dept. of Health Professions

**Why is this legislation needed**?

* To remove joint board oversight of APRN groups
* To remove unnecessary added regulatory layers on APRNs
* To remove confusion of APRN roles providing clarity of care

**How will this impact Virginians?**

Virginians will clearly understand the role of APRNs, know that competent providers are managing their   
 care and that the practice of APRNs is regulated consistently for public protection.