

Clinical Nurse Specialist

Florida recognizes the title Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) as an upgrade to the RN license, but a CNS is not given the title of Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner (ARNP).

Nurses with the title CNS will have the following sub-specialties available: Advanced Diabetes Management, Adult Health, Child/Adolescent Psychiatric & Mental Health, Psychiatric & Mental Health, Gerontological, Pediatric, Public/Community Health, Advanced Oncology Clinical Nurse Specialist, Certified Critical-Care Nurse Specialist, Advanced Certified Hospice and Palliative Nurse.

This law provides for title protection for Certified Nurse Specialists who meet the following criteria:

1. Hold a current and active license as a Registered Nurse in Florida;
2. Have a Master's degree or higher in Nursing as a Clinical Nurse Specialist;
3. Provide proof of current certification in a specialty area as a clinical nurse specialist from one of the four certifying bodies: ANCC, AACN, ONCC, and NBCHPN; or meet the requirements of Section 464.0115, F.S., and have provided the required affidavit; and
4. Have a certificate issued by the FBON as a Clinical Nurse Specialist.

The recognition of CNSs went into effect on July 1, 2007. All nurses currently using the title CNS must discontinue use of it, unless they are licensed to use this title in Florida. Those who apply and qualify will receive an upgraded nursing license. The upgraded CNS license number and expiration date will remain the same as your Registered Nurse license. Some nurses using the title CNS will not qualify for the newly created designation and may be eligible for a partial refund if they apply.

A CNS is not required to submit protocols, does not have prescriptive authority and will not be able to work on a provisional license.