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Support

HB0276: Health Occupations – Clinical Nurse Specialists – Prescribing Authority

The Maryland Academy of Advanced Practice Clinicians (MAAPC) supports Delegate Bonnie Cullison HB0276: Health Occupations – Clinical Nurse Specialists – Prescribing Authority. MAAPC is the only statewide professional association that supports the roles of all advanced practice nurses (APRNs) and physician assistants (PAs). MAAPC has worked tirelessly over the past fifteen years to support clinicians' roles to practice to the full extent of their training and education by removing barriers to practice as recommended by the study released in 2010 by the Institute of Medicine (IOM). Barriers to practice for APRNs and PAs only serve to limit access to care for patients and place undue burdens on patients—both in delays to healthcare and financially, particularly in vulnerable populations in inner cities and rural Maryland.

What is a CNS?

A Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) is a Master or Doctorate prepared Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) whose role is to improve outcomes in patient care. The CNS is an expert in clinical practice, patient education, research, evidence-based practice, consultation, and influences the three spheres of impact: patient care, nursing, and systems.

Why do Marylanders need CNS Prescriptive Authority?

- Expanded Access to Care - especially for vulnerable populations
- Close the gaps that the COVID pandemic has exposed in our healthcare system
- Address Health Equity - equal access to high-quality care for underserved populations
- Create cost savings for hospital, patients, insurance companies and communities
- Improve patient safety - prevent delay in needed care
- Improve health care delivery by assisting with transitions from hospital to home care

There is a Disconnect between Federal and Maryland Law

- CNSs have authority to prescribe buprenorphine (Suboxone/Subutex) through the SUPPORT Act.
 - There are 188 licensed and certified psychiatric/mental health CNSs in Maryland who can manage their patients' medications and care but must refer patients to a psychiatrist or psychiatric nurse practitioner to obtain prescriptions delaying needed care and increasing costs for seeing another provider with prescriptive authority.
- CNSs are permanently authorized by the CARES Act to order home care and home health supplies and can be reimbursed for services.
 - There are 122 licensed and certified CNSs who work in hospitals and outpatient clinics who manage the care of their patients but are unable to prescribe drugs, home health or home health equipment, delaying care which jeopardizes patient safety and increases healthcare costs.

Maryland is at risk for losing CNSs

Forty (40) other states and the Veterans Administration Healthcare System have granted prescriptive authority to CNSs. It's time Maryland catches up!

We urge a favorable report on this bill. If you need further information, please contact me at LDianaart@aol.com.

Sincerely,
 Lorraine Diana, CRNP
 MAAPC Legislative Co-Chair



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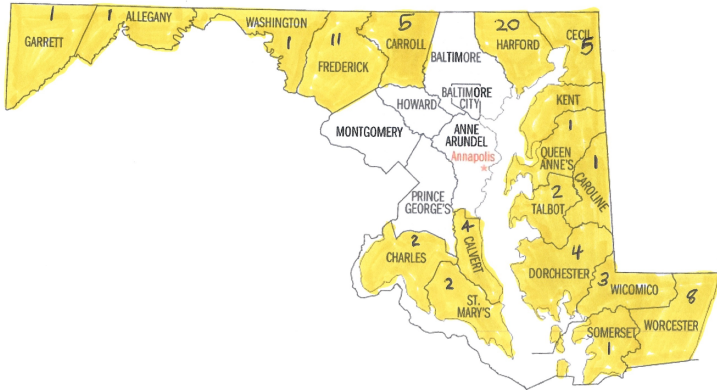
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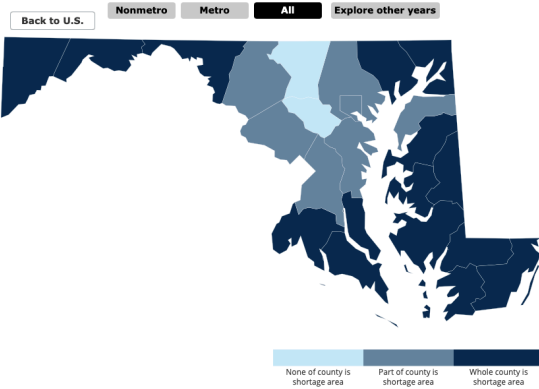


Clinical Nurse Specialists in Rural Counties in Maryland 2021
Total CNSs in Maryland=310
Total CNSs in Rural Maryland=76 (24.5%)

upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/7/79/Map_of_maryland_counties.jpg

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Health Professional Shortage Areas: Mental Health, by County, 2021 - Maryland



Health Professional Shortage Areas: Primary Care, by County, 2021 - Maryland

