

# CNS Prescribing- Fact sheet HB0278/SB0213



## Chesapeake Bay Affiliate of the National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists



### 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.

### What is included in a CNS's ability to prescribe?

Prescribing is the ability to order medications, imaging, blood-work, physical therapy, occupational therapy, home care, home health supplies, hospice care, and more.

### Why do Marylanders need CNS to prescribe/order healthcare?

- 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 under-served populations
- Create cost savings for hospital, patients, insurance companies and communities
- Improve patient safety - prevent delay in access to 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.
- CNSs are permanently authorized by the CARES Act to order home care, home health supplies, hospice care, and can be reimbursed for services.

### Maryland is at risk for losing CNSs

Virginia, West Virginia, Delaware, D.C. and 35 other states have CNS prescriptive authority.

Support prescriptive authority for Clinical Nurse Specialists and build a better healthcare system for Maryland



Scan for more information & real-world stories. Questions?  
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