

WHAT IS A CLINICAL NURSE SPECIALIST?

Clinical Nurse Specialists (CNSs) are a crucial part of the health care team. Keck Medical Center employs six CNSs who work in different departments with different populations.

The CNS group:

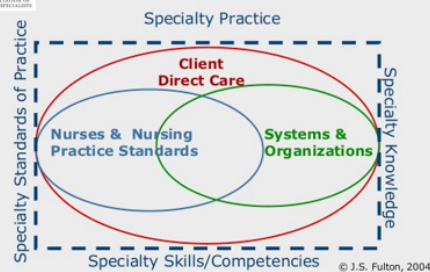
- Assesses and evaluates healthcare interventions to improve healthcare delivery and outcomes
- Drives evidence-based practice changes throughout the organization
- Provides expertise to nurses caring for patients at the bedside
- Leads nursing quality and safety rounds
- Serves as a consultant for complex patient issues
- Assisted with implementing delirium prevention and management practices, reducing hospital-acquired infections, recognizing sepsis for early intervention, reinvigorating interprofessional rounds, and developing disease-specific programs

ABOUT US

The CNS role was developed in 1952 by nursing theorist Dr. Hildegard Peplau. Her landmark book, *Interpersonal Relationships in Nursing*, highlighted the nurse-client relationship as the foundation for nursing practice.

A CNS is an advanced practice nurse who holds a graduate nursing degree. A CNS has advanced education and training in a specialized area of nursing practice, like population (e.g., pediatrics), type of problem (e.g., wound care), setting (e.g., intensive care unit), type of care (e.g., rehabilitation), or disease (e.g., diabetes).

Today, there are approximately 72,000 CNSs nationwide.



CNS practice conceptualized as core competencies in 3 interacting spheres actualized in specialty practice, and guided by specialty knowledge and standards.



CLINICAL NURSE SPECIALISTS

KECK MEDICAL CENTER OF USC

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BEYOND EXCEPTIONAL MEDICINE™

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Beyond Exceptional Care

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Natalie is the CNS for the cardiac critical care and telemetry units. She has 12 years of experience, including critical care and cardiothoracic surgery. She received her Associate Degree and Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Golden West

College and California State University, Fullerton and her Master of Science in Nursing from Liberty University. Natalie is certified by the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses as a Critical Care CNS, CCRN, CSC, and CMC. She is Co-Chair of the Nursing Hospital Acquired Infection Committee, Co-Chair of the Code Blue Committee and Chair of the Alarms Management Task Force. Natalie is currently working on evidence-based practice initiatives related to family visitation, alcohol withdrawal, and alarms management.

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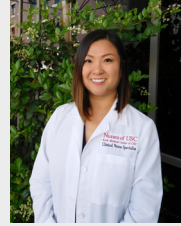
Alden is the outpatient CNS for Norris Cancer Hospital. She has 11 years of experience, including cardiac telemetry, stroke, emergency and oncology specialties. She received her Master of Science in Nursing from UCLA. Alden is dually board

certified as an adult gerontology clinic nurse specialist and acute care nurse practitioner. She aims to promote high quality patient care through nursing best practices, focusing on initiatives to promote patient safety, education and empowerment during cancer treatment. Alden is also an active member of the Patient Identification Error Reduction Team, Central Line Associated Blood Stream Infection Committee, and chair elect of the Nursing Research and Evidence Based Practice Council.

Terrie Kim

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Terrie is the CNS for the neurosciences intensive care unit, telemetry unit, and inpatient rehab. She has 9 years of experience, including neuroscience and critical care nursing. She received her Bachelor and Master of Science in Nursing from California State University of Long Beach. Terrie is certified by the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses as a CCRN and as an adult health clinical nurse specialist. She participates in various hospital committees, process improvement projects, and quality improvement projects. Terrie also serves as a resource and consultant for the clinical staff and the patients.

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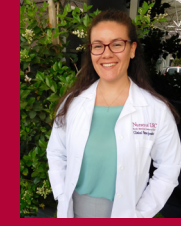


Nancy is the inpatient CNS at Norris. She has 20 years of experience, including BMT and pediatric oncology. She received her Master in Nursing from UCLA. As the CNS at Cohen Children's Medical Center of NY, she improved safety during chemotherapy prescribing by creating standardized order templates for Children's Oncology Group protocols and teaching oncology fellows how to write chemotherapy orders. Nancy was a poster abstract co-author of "Successful implementation of a modified methotrexate desensitization protocol in a patient with osteosarcoma", presented at the ASPHO Annual Meeting. She was a writer for CCMC's Magnet document and Co-Chair of the Nursing Research Committee. Nancy was the Assistant Editor for JOPON. She implemented the patient-focused CNS role at Norris.

Kimberly Sanchez

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Kimberly is the CNS for the surgical and medical intensive care units as well as the stepdown unit. She has 8 years of experience in critical care. She received her Master of Science in Nursing from the University of San Diego and her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Mount St. Mary's College in Los Angeles. Kimberly is certified by the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses as a CCRN and as an ACCNS-AG. She is also certified by the American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery as a bariatric nurse. As an adult-gerontology CNS focused on care of the critically ill patient, Kimberly has assisted in developing and implementing initiatives, identified as evidence-based practices, to decrease the incidence of hospital-acquired infections and improve patient outcomes.

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Kathrine is the CNS for the surgical intensive care unit, abdominal transplant unit, and the abdominal transplant general care unit. She received her Doctor of Nursing Practice Degree from California State University, Fresno and her Bachelor and Master of Science in Nursing from Mount Saint Mary's College in Los Angeles. In her current role, Kathrine works with interprofessional team members to implement various evidence-based initiatives such as sepsis, ICU liberation, alarm management, and delirium screening. She works with her nursing colleagues to elevate nursing practice, through providing preceptor education, developing a nursing-focused CRRT quality program, and mentoring nurses as they develop their own evidence-based practice projects or prepare to apply to the Clinical Ladder Program.