



DATE: 30/09/2021

## **CENNZNZ-NZNO POSITION STATEMENT**

### **CLINICAL NURSE SPECIALISTS IN EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS**

#### **SUMMARY**

The College of Emergency Nurses – NZNO is committed to the recognition and integration of Clinical Nurse Specialists (CNS) roles as advanced nursing practice roles within Emergency Department teams. Clinical Nurse Specialists (CNS) provide expert evidence-based care that improves patient outcomes.

#### **CENNZNZ POSITION: KEY RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is the position of the College of Emergency Nurses - NZNO that the Clinical Nurse Specialist role:

- is an advanced nursing role within the Registered Nurses scope of practice.
- is a designated senior nursing role, which has developed independently to that of the Nurse Practitioner (NP); both CNS and NP fulfil meaningful roles within different scopes of practice
- the CNS role may form part of the Nurse Practitioner (NP) pathway
- illustrates both breadth and depth of emergency nursing knowledge
- provides coaching, mentoring and educational opportunities for members of the multi-disciplinary team.
- uses current evidence to guide practice.
- works collaboratively with clinical and professional support that includes clinical supervision, mentoring and professional development.
- influences, informs and supports workforce planning and development.

## BACKGROUND:

Emergency nurses in New Zealand provide acute and emergent care to patients, families/whanau and communities through a range of clinical settings. This includes hospital Emergency Departments rural healthcare facilities, and urgent care clinics.

The CNS role is well established and recognised as an effective advanced practice role.

Emergency CNS role descriptions vary depending on the models of care and resources of the practice setting however all roles use expertise and integration of advanced knowledge to improve patient outcomes and influence nursing practice.

The CNS role sits within the senior nursing level of the Knowledge and Skills Framework (CENNZ-NZNO, 2016). The CNS role reflects the advanced nursing practice domains of direct care, support of systems, education, research, and professional leadership (Carrier, et al., 2018).

CNS participation in quality improvement and research facilitates knowledge translation and improving standards of practice that contributes to optimal patient outcomes.

In some departments CNS roles have been established to increase the resource capacity to provide direct clinical care (King, 2013).

## RATIONALE FOR CENNZ RECOMMENDATIONS

- The CNS role is well established and recognised as an effective advanced practice role
- There is strong evidence supporting the role of CNSs engaging in clinical aspects of emergency care

## REFERENCES

Carrier, J., Wilkinson, J., Towers, A., & Gardner, G. (2018). Delineating advanced practice nursing in New Zealand. *International Nursing Review*, 65, 24-32.

College of Emergency Nurses New Zealand (CENNZ), New Zealand Nurses Organisation. (2016). Knowledge and Skills Framework.

King, D. (2013). The Minor Injury Clinic in an Emergency Department: Five Years Later. *Emergency Nurse New Zealand*, Spring, 6.

**POSITION STATEMENT DUE FOR REVIEW: 30/09/2024**