

**Emergency Nurses Association
2006 ENA General Assembly
Resolution 06-02**

Resolution Title: National Validation of Clinical Nurse Specialists and Advanced Practice Registered Nurses in Emergency Care Settings

RESOLUTION:

1 WHEREAS, clinical nurse specialists (CNSs) comprise a group of over 67,000 advanced
2 practice nurses in the United States; and

3
4 WHEREAS, there is no existing validation mechanism that validates the skills and competencies
5 required for CNSs to practice in emergency care settings; and

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7 WHEREAS, different State Boards of Nursing have combined the CNS and the nurse
8 practitioner roles and have named this combined advanced practice category as Advanced
9 Practice Registered Nurse (APRN); and

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11 WHEREAS, the National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists (NACNS) is urging specialty
12 organizations to create validation mechanisms that are appropriate for the specialty; be it

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14 RESOLVED, that the Emergency Nurses Association (ENA) establish a task force of clinical
15 nurse specialists and advanced practice registered nurses who practice and educate clinical nurse
16 specialists and advanced practice registered nurses in emergency care settings; and be it further

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18 RESOLVED, that the task force shall work collaboratively and jointly with the ENA Nurse
19 Practitioner Validation Task Force, the Board of Certification for Emergency Nursing (BCEN),
20 and other national organizations to develop a framework to enable a validation of clinical nurse
21 specialists and advanced practice registered nurses in emergency care settings.

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23 **RESOLUTION BACKGROUND AND INFORMATION:**

24 The National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) is a non-profit organization whose
25 membership is comprised of all 50 State Boards of Nursing in addition to the five United States
26 territories. NCSBN's mission is to provide leadership to advance regulatory excellence for
27 public protection. The National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists (NACNS, 2004) and
28 the NCSBN (2002, 2003) have proposed that validation or certification of core competencies by
29 a nationally recognized certifying body in a specialty area be required by advanced practice
30 nurses in order to practice. NCSBN (2002) and NACNS (2004) recommended that advanced
31 practice registered nurses (APRNs) participate in a generic competence maintenance program if
32 no specialty certification validation mechanism exists.

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34 Recently, the NCSBN (2006) published a document called Vision Paper: The Future Regulation
35 of Advanced Practice Nursing in draft form in February, 2006. NCSBN is encouraging State
36 Boards of Nursing to adopt the APRN Compact that will allow advanced practice nurses to be
37 mutually recognized across state lines. This is especially important in light of recent national
38 disasters where mutual aid to states is essential in providing care to victims of disaster.

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40 The American Nurses Association (ANA, 2003), leading APRN scholars and textbooks
41 emphasize the similarities of central and core competencies of all advanced practice nurses
42 (Hamric, Spross & Hanson, 2005; Stanley, 2004). Competencies are defined as the knowledge,
43 skills, and behavior required for safe practice. The NCSBN proposes to combine the Clinical
44 Nurse Specialist title with the Nurse Practitioner title and suggests combining the two titles into
45 one and calling it Nurse Practitioner (NP). While many may not agree with the NCSBN, it is
46 clear from the literature that there are shared competencies across all advanced practice nurses
47 and some competencies that are specific to each role of CNS and NP.
48

RELATIONSHIP TO ENA PHILOSOPHY AND BYLAWS:

49 The ENA Bylaws, Article III, Sections (A), (D), and (F) state:
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51 (A) To promote the specialty of emergency nursing.
52 (D) To work collaboratively with other health related organizations toward the
53 improvement of emergency care.
54 (F) To define standards that serve as a basis for emergency nursing practice.
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RESOLUTION:

56 That ENA establish a task force of CNSs/APRNs who practice and educate in emergency care
57 settings to work collaboratively and jointly with the Nurse Practitioner Validation Task Force,
58 BCEN and other organizations to investigate a framework to enable validation of CNSs/APRNs
59 competencies in emergency care settings.
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FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

62 The financial considerations would be minimal to develop this task force. Expense items might
63 include funding for conference calls and staff support time.
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RESOLUTION OUTCOMES:

66 That ENA establish a CNS/APRN task force comprised of CNSs/APRNs who practice and
67 educate CNSs/APRNs in emergency care settings to investigate a framework to enable validation
68 of CNS/APRN competencies in emergency care settings.
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