

1 21 NCAC 36 .0228 is amended, with changes, as published in NCR 38:01, pages 21-23 as follows:

2
3 **21 NCAC 36 .0228 CLINICAL NURSE SPECIALIST PRACTICE**

4 (a) Only a registered nurse who meets the qualifications outlined in Paragraph (b) of this Rule shall be approved by
5 the Board as a clinical nurse specialist to perform advanced practice registered nursing activities listed in Paragraph
6 ~~(f)~~ (c) of this Rule.

7 (b) The Board shall approve an applicant who:

8 (1) has an active, unencumbered license to practice as a registered nurse in North Carolina or a state
9 that has adopted the Nurse Licensure Compact;

10 (2) has an unrestricted previous approval, registration, or license as a clinical nurse specialist if
11 previously approved, registered, or licensed as a clinical nurse specialist in another state, territory,
12 or possession of the United States;

13 (3) has successfully completed a master's or higher-level degree program that is accredited by a nursing
14 accrediting body approved by the United States Secretary of Education or the Council for Higher
15 Education Accreditation Accreditation; and meets the qualifications for clinical nurse specialist
16 certification by an approved national credentialing body under Subparagraph (b)(4) of this Rule;
17 and

18 (4) has current certification as a clinical nurse specialist from a national credentialing body approved
19 by the Board, as defined in Paragraph (h) of this Rule and 21 NCAC 36 .0120(33). Board.

20 (c) An applicant certified as a clinical nurse specialist by a national credentialing body prior to January 1, 2007 who
21 has maintained that certification and certification, held an active approval, registration, or license as a clinical nurse
22 specialist practice specialist, and holds a master's or higher degree in nursing or a related field shall be approved by
23 the Board as a clinical nurse specialist.

24 ~~(d) New graduates seeking first time clinical nurse specialist approval in North Carolina shall hold a master's or
25 higher level degree or a post graduate certificate from a clinical nurse specialist program accredited by a nursing
26 accrediting body approved by the United States Secretary of Education or the Council for Higher Education
27 Accreditation and shall meet all requirements in Subparagraph (b)(1) and Part (g)(3)(A) of this Rule.~~

28 ~~(e)~~(d) A certified clinical nurse specialist An applicant seeking Board approval who has never practiced not held an
29 active approval, registration or license as a clinical nurse specialist or has not practiced in for more than two or more
30 years shall complete a clinical nurse specialist refresher course approved by the Board in accordance with 21 NCAC
31 36 .0220(o) and (p), consisting of common conditions and their management related to the clinical nurse specialist's
32 area of education and certification. A clinical nurse specialist refresher course participant shall be granted limited
33 registration as a clinical nurse specialist recognition that is specific to for the purposes of completing the clinical
34 activities taught in the refresher course.

35 ~~(f)~~(c) The scope of practice of a clinical nurse specialist shall incorporate the basic components of nursing practice
36 as defined in Rule .0224 of this Section as well as the understanding and application of nursing principles at an

1 advanced practice registered nurse level in the area of clinical nursing specialization in which the clinical nurse
2 specialist is educationally prepared and ~~for~~ **within** which competency is maintained, including:

- 3 (1) assessing clients' health status, synthesizing and analyzing multiple sources of data, and identifying
4 alternative possibilities as to the nature of a healthcare problem;
- 5 (2) diagnosing and managing clients' acute and chronic health problems within the essential core
6 competencies for professional nursing education;
- 7 (3) assessing for and monitoring the usage and effect of pharmacologic agents within the essential core
8 competencies for professional nursing education;
- 9 (4) formulating strategies to promote wellness and prevent illness;
- 10 (5) prescribing and implementing therapeutic and corrective non-pharmacologic nursing interventions;
- 11 (6) planning for situations beyond the clinical nurse specialist's expertise and consulting with or
12 referring clients to other health care providers as appropriate;
- 13 (7) promoting and practicing in collegial and collaborative relationships with clients, families, other
14 health care professionals, and individuals whose decisions influence the health of individual clients,
15 families, and communities;
- 16 (8) initiating, establishing, and using measures to evaluate health care outcomes and modify nursing
17 practice decisions;
- 18 (9) assuming leadership for the application of research findings for the improvement of health care
19 outcomes; and
- 20 (10) integrating education, consultation, management, leadership, and research into the clinical nurse
21 specialist role.

22 ~~(e)(f)~~ A registered nurse seeking **approval registration** by the Board as a clinical nurse specialist ~~shall:~~ **shall submit**
23 **the following:**

- 24 (1) ~~submit~~ a completed application **through the Board's website at www.ncbon.com** that ~~includes the~~
25 ~~following:~~ **includes:**
 - 26 (A) ~~evidence of a master's or higher level degree or a post graduate certificate, as set out in~~
27 ~~Subparagraph (b)(3) or Paragraph (d) of this Rule; and~~
 - 28 (B) ~~evidence of current certification in a clinical nursing specialty from a national credentialing~~
29 ~~body, set out in Subparagraph (b)(4) of this Rule.~~
- 30 (2) ~~renew the approval every two years at the time of registered nurse renewal; and~~
- 31 (3) ~~submit evidence of the following:~~
 - 32 (A) ~~initial certification and re certification by a national credentialing body at the time such~~
33 ~~occurs in order to maintain Board recognition, consistent with Paragraphs (b) and (h) of~~
34 ~~this Rule; or~~
 - 35 (B) ~~if recognized by the Board as a clinical nurse specialist without national certification prior~~
36 ~~to April 1, 2023, at least 1,000 hours of practice and 75 contact hours of continuing~~

1 ~~education with 25 contact hours of pharmacotherapeutics as a portion of the mandatory 75~~
2 ~~contact hours every five years; or~~

3 (C) ~~if recognized by the Board as a clinical nurse specialist without national certification prior~~
4 ~~to April 1, 2021, 2023, 150 contact hours of continuing education with 50 contact hours of~~
5 ~~pharmacotherapeutics as a portion of the 150 contact hours every five years.~~

6 Part (B) and (C) of this Subparagraph does not apply to first time CNS' renewing their application
7 for the first time.

8 (4) ~~maintain documentation of clinical practice hours and continuing education for the previous five~~
9 ~~years and made available upon request of the Board.~~

10 (A) ~~the applicant's name, telephone number and email address;~~

11 (B) ~~the applicant's primary address of residence;~~

12 (C) ~~the educational degrees obtained by the applicant with the program name and completion~~
13 ~~date;~~

14 (D) ~~the number and expiration date of the applicant's national certification from a national~~
15 ~~certifying body;~~

16 (E) ~~other professional or occupational licenses with the license number and jurisdiction in~~
17 ~~which the licensed was issued, if applicable; and~~

18 (F) ~~the registration number shall be provided on the application if the application is for the~~
19 ~~renewal or reinstatement of an existing North Carolina recognition as a certified nurse~~
20 ~~specialist.~~

21 (2) ~~official copy of the transcript from master's or higher-level degree program or a post-graduate~~
22 ~~certificate program; as set out in Subparagraph (b)(3) of this Rule; and~~

23 (3) ~~current certification in a clinical nursing specialty from a national credentialing body, set out in~~
24 ~~Subparagraph (b)(4) of this Rule.~~

25 (h) ~~The Board shall approve those national credentialing bodies offering certification and recertification in a clinical~~
26 ~~nursing specialty that have established the following minimum requirements for applicants:~~

27 (1) ~~active unencumbered licensure as a registered nurse; and~~

28 (2) ~~certification as a clinical nurse specialist that is limited to applicant prepared with a master's or~~
29 ~~higher level degree or a post graduate certificate.~~

30 (g) ~~The clinical nurse specialist shall submit a renewal application every two years at the time of registered nurse~~
31 ~~renewal.~~

32 (h) ~~[H] An applicant recognized by the Board as a clinical nurse specialist without national certification prior to April~~
33 ~~1, 2023 who seeks to maintain this recognition shall:~~

34 (1) ~~not allow the Board's recognition status to expire;~~

35 (2) ~~submit an application as set out in Subparagraph (g)(1); and~~

36 (3) ~~submit certificates of completion consistent with the following:~~

1 (A) at least 75 contact hours of continuing education which includes 25 contact hours of
2 pharmacotherapeutics as a portion of the mandatory 75 contact hours for the previous five
3 years and attest to 1,000 hours of practice; or

4 (B) at least 150 hours of continuing education which includes 50 contact hours of
5 pharmacotherapeutics as a portion of the 150 contact hours for the previous five years.

6 (i) All clinical nurse specialists shall maintain documentation of clinical practice hours and continuing education
7 for the previous five years which shall be made available upon request of the Board.

8
9 *History Note:* Authority G.S. 90-171.20(4); 90-171.20(7); 90-171.21(d)(4); 90-171.23(b); 90-171.42(b);
10 Eff. April 1, 1996;
11 Amended Eff. January 1, 2015; April 1, 2008; January 1, 2007; November 1, 2005; August 1, 2005;
12 April 1, 2003;
13 Readopted Eff. January 1, 2019;
14 Amended Eff. December 1, 2023; April 1, 2023; November 1, 2020.