

# INTERNAL TALKING POINTS FOR NURSES HB2069

CLINICAL NURSE SPECIALIST (CNS); PRESCRIBING AND DISPENSING PRIVILEGES IN  
LICENSED HEALTHCARE FACILITIES

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## DO NOT GIVE THIS TO YOUR LEGISLATOR. GIVE YOUR LEGISLATOR THE HB2068 FACT SHEET

The Arizona Nurses Association is supporting limited prescribing and dispensing privileges for Clinical Nurse Specialists (CNS). CNS is one of four nationally recognized Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) roles- the others are Registered Nurse Practitioner, Certified Nurse Midwife and Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist. There are approximately 170+ licensed CNSs in Arizona. **A CNS works as part of a multidisciplinary team and can diagnose and treat acute or chronic illness.**

**HB2068** allows a CNS to have limited prescribing and dispensing privileges in specific settings if they have met equivalent general education and training requirements as those for NPs

**HB2068** would limit CNS prescribing authority to only licensed hospitals and other inpatient and residential facilities and outpatient treatment centers that provide behavioral health or are federally qualified community health centers. Prescribing would be limited to the protocols specific to a CNS of the health care institution.

**HB2068** would allow CNSs to prescribe opioids in inpatient settings only pursuant to the institution protocols or standing orders and may not prescribe or dispense opioids in outpatient treatment centers except for Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) by CNS qualified pursuant to federal requirements. There is a great shortage of MAT providers in Arizona.

By allowing CNSs to practice to the full extent of their education and training including prescribing authority, Arizona would benefit from potentially **lower cost, more efficient care and greater access to care.**

### Additional Information You May Need to Answer Legislator Questions

The state and national standards require a CNS to be a registered nurse and have specified graduate education with a minimum of a master's degree in nursing or doctor of nursing practice and be certified by a national certification entity.

More than 20 states provide independent authority and/or prescribing privileges for CNSs including neighboring states Nevada, Utah, Colorado and New Mexico.

CNSs generally specialize in a clinical area, typically in hospitals.

The most common CNS specialties include psychiatric, women's health, medical/surgical chronic disease management (e.g., diabetes, oncology), and acute care