The Commission on Nurse Certification (CNC) is the autonomous certifying body of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN). The mission of the CNC is to oversee Clinical Nurse Leader® (CNL®) certification activities to assure communities of interest that certificants have met accepted standards of practice. The CNL certification process is governed by the CNC Board of Commissioners (CNCBOC). The CNCBOC and staff are solely responsible for the policies and administration of the CNL Certification Program.

Accreditation
The Clinical Nurse Leader Certification Program is accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA).

Employers: Your Next Step!
CNLs are change agents utilizing unique competencies in various healthcare settings. Now it’s your chance to recruit certified CNLs to make today’s healthcare system the system of tomorrow!

- Post open positions on the CNL Job Bank: AACNNursing.org/CNL
- Access employer resources online: AACNNursing.org/CNL
- View CNL videos at the Clinical Nurse Leader YouTube channel: Youtube.com/user/clinicalnurseleader
By having a certified CNL on staff, your healthcare delivery system can achieve:

Benefits to Employers

- Complex situations.
- Enhanced promotion to patients and the public that your healthcare team adheres to nationally-recognized standards.

How CNLs® View Their Skill Set

In 2015, CNC surveyed CNLs around the nation who maintained their credentials to learn how certification impacts their nursing career and the healthcare setting in which they practice:

1. The majority of survey respondents indicated that they are able to apply their CNL knowledge and skills in their current job.
2. 91% indicated that they are an important member of their interdisciplinary team.
3. 92% of CNLs are valued as an employee because of their CNL knowledge and skills.

The majority of survey respondents indicate that they:

- Suggest a cost-saving idea or process that improves institutional efficiency.
- Use aggregate data sets to improve care.
- Participate in institutional wide committees to promote safety and quality care.
- Assimilate research-based evidence to improve outcomes.
- Conduct microsystems analysis to improve institutional outcomes.
- Develop educational materials for patients or staff.

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The Clinical Nurse Leader℠

The CNL℠ is a master’s educated nurse, prepared for practice across the continuum of care within any healthcare setting in today’s changing healthcare environment. CNLs® provide efficient and cost-effective patient care as well as the leadership needed to repair fragmented care delivery across settings. Practice settings report that CNLs have a measurable impact on the quality of nursing services by:

- Raising patient, nurse, and physician satisfaction while improving care outcomes and realizing sizable cost-savings.
- Elevating the level of practice for all nurses in the unit by promoting critical thinking and innovation in nursing care.
- Constructively managing change and promoting a team-based approach to care.
- Understanding the bigger picture, including outcomes and patient satisfaction when considering next steps, needed changes and improvements to the setting.

Performing the CNL® Skill Set

The CNL® was developed by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) in 2003 to help improve patient care and decrease fragmentation in the healthcare delivery system. In practice, the CNL skill set is performed differently depending on the healthcare setting. The following is an overview of skill sets performed by CNLs.

- The CNL applies advanced competencies in nursing leadership, clinical outcomes, and healthcare settings. The following is an overview of skill sets performed by CNLs.
- Laterally integrate care services efficiently and cost-effectively across disciplines and care settings.
- Apply evidence-based criteria for measuring the quality of care delivery and lead quality improvement processes based on evidence.
- Become a professional advocate for holistic, defragmented, patient-centered care at the microsystem, organizational, and political level of healthcare practice.

The Growing Impact of the CNL®

CNLs are making a difference in the delivery of healthcare across the broad spectrum of practice settings by:

Improving Patient Outcomes

- Outcomes from a CNL in the Geriatric Evaluation and Management Clinic include post hospitalization follow-up calls made over a nine month period to determine home safety that helped reduce falls by 75%, with a cost avoidance of $100,000. Another process improvement project focusing on clinic exit interview reduced phone calls by 89% and increase medication adherence by 67%.

Bridging Gaps on Interdisciplinary Teams

- CNLs work collaboratively with the unit nurse manager, physicians, dietitians, case managers, quality/risk managers, clerical staff, nurse educators and departments such as infection control, housekeeping, physical therapy, occupational therapy, social service, pastoral service, information technology, radiology, laboratory, pharmacy, and data support systems to enhance lateral integrated care.

Certified CNLs® Work in Many Different Settings

- Community Outpatient Centers
- Healthcare Systems
- Home Health Care
- Homeless Shelters
- Hospitals
- Institutions of Higher Education
- Non-Profit Organizations
- Private Practice
- Rehabilitation Centers
- and much more!