The WRHA Nursing Leadership Council has endorsed the Strong Model of Advanced Practice as the framework to guide and describe advanced practice nursing in all regional settings. The Strong Model - adopted at HSC to guide advanced nursing practice - identifies the areas of practice and underlying processes, and acknowledges Benner’s movement from novice to expert.

The CNS enacts the role along a continuum as outlined below.

**The Strong Model of Advanced Practice**

- **PATIENT**
- **Direct comprehensive care**
- **Support of systems**
- **Scholarship**
- **Education**
- **Collaboration**
- **Publication and professional leadership**
- **Research**
- **Empowerment**

**NOVICE**

**EXPERT**

**Integrated Role Domains**
- Professional Development
- Organizational Leadership
- Research
- Education
- Expanded clinical functions requiring Extended Class (EC) registration

**How to Contact Your Program CNS**

- Tricia Carta: Burns ............................ 204-787-3392
- Doris Sawatzky-Dickson: Neonatology ...... 204-787-1060
- Cathy Gillespie: Pediatric Asthma and Allergy .......... 204-787-4205
- Darlene Grantham: Oncology .................. 204-787-3917
- Christine Finnbogason: Women’s Health ..... 204-787-1579
- Julie Halipchuk: Pediatric Diabetes ............ 204-787-8932
- Isabelle Jarrin: Mental Health ................... 204-787-5088
- Christine Johnson: Rehab/Geriatrics ......... 204-787-4221
- Lisa Merrill: Women’s Health ................... 204-787-2612
- Asha Pereira: Trauma ............................ 204-787-2839
- Erin Shepherd: Pediatric Symptom Management & Palliative Care (WRHA) .................. 204-237-2400
- Lisa Streeter: Adult Palliative Care (WRHA) ........... 204-237-2400
- Karen Thronson: Cardiology .................... 204-787-8827
- Alison Bodnarchuk: Wound Care ............... 204-787-2960

We would like to acknowledge the St. Boniface Hospital CNS Committee for sharing their document with us.


What is a Clinical Nurse Specialist?

- A Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) is a Registered Nurse who has extensive clinical experience and a Master’s and/or Doctoral degree.

Direct Patient & Family Care

- Supports nurses to provide evidence-informed nursing care
- Provides guidance and assists with patient and family education
- Acts as a resource in managing patients with complex needs

Research

- Collaborates with the care team to ensure safe, quality patient care
- Facilitates the integration and standardization of services provided

Leadership

- Implements evidence-informed nursing practice
- Participates on committees related to care delivery, policy/procedure development and professional practice
- Facilitates quality improvement initiatives related to clinical practice
- Acts as a resource for clinical matters and risk management issues
- Mentors nursing staff on critical thinking and professional practice

Education

- Supports and develops educational material and programs for patients, families, staff and the health care authority
- Assesses staff learning needs to promote professional development

Organizational Support

- Supports evidence-informed care to achieve quality, cost-effective clinical outcomes
- Participates in developing standards of care in the facility
- Participates in decision-making around health policy issues
- Assist with critical incident reviews

How can the CNS Support You?

- Be a resource for you related to patient care concerns
- Assist you in providing patient and family education and counseling
- Help you to provide care for complex patients
- Guide you in how to do a literature search on a topic of interest for your nursing practice
- Assist you with information on best practice standards
- Develop a care plan with you for patients and their families with complex needs
- Work with you on evidence-informed practice projects and nursing research
- Provide you with current articles or research to help answer clinical questions
- Listen to your clinical practice concerns and examine possible solutions with colleagues
- Help you to provide patient and family support when your patient moves to a different ward/unit or focus becomes comfort care