A recent synthesis of literature about clinical nurse specialists (CNSs) in Canada identified that although CNSs have been an integral part of the health care system in Canada, we know very little about this role. This is the first study of practice patterns of CNSs across Canada and will help us to learn about the number and distribution of CNSs in Canada, what CNSs are doing in their role, CNSs’ satisfaction with their role, and facilitators and barriers to role implementation. This knowledge will form the foundation for work to more effectively utilize this role in the Canadian health care system.

Your participation in this study is critical. We are hoping that as many CNSs in Canada as possible will complete this important survey. To participate, you can choose to complete an on-line or a paper copy of the questionnaire. The on-line questionnaire is available at http://www.apnnursingchair.mcmaster.ca. To obtain a paper copy and a postage-paid return envelope, please contact Mary Henri by email at henrimc@mcmaster.ca or by phone at (905) 525-9140 ext. 21286.

We would be most appreciative if you could help spread the word about this study to your CNS colleagues.

This study is being conducted in collaboration with the CHSRF/CIHR Chair Program in Advanced Practice Nursing at McMaster University, and is supported by the Canadian Nurses Association and Health Canada. The study has been approved by the Research Ethics Board of the Université du Québec en Outaouais.

The information that you provide will inform decisions about the deployment and funding of CNS roles in Canada, support the development of policies to strengthen the CNS role in the Canadian healthcare system, and help to ensure the long-term sustainability of the role.

For more information on the study please contact Kelley Kilpatrick at kelley.kilpatrick@uqo.ca