

# Clinical Nurse Leader



A pediatric clinical nurse leader wants to answer questions like “Is it effective?” and “Is it efficient?” with the end goal of improving health outcomes for children, adolescents, and young adults. They identify gaps in health care, ways to decrease costs, and priorities so they can communicate findings to leaders and implement changes.



Leads efforts to make improvements and changes in processes



Curious about the “why” and “how” to uncover evidence and data



Confident communicator who can explain complex information to different audiences

## Keywords

- Finds and solves problems on the unit and beyond
- Gantt charts and flow diagrams
- Great people skills to secure leadership buy-in and financial resources to make changes happen

## Career Steps

1

Obtain your nursing degree (diploma, BSN, or higher) and pass the NCLEX exam. Obtain your RN license through your State Board of Nursing and begin practicing in pediatrics.

2

Seek your Certified Pediatric Nurse (CPN) credential from PNCB when you meet eligibility. As you grow in your role, explore ways to get involved with quality improvement projects or teams.

3

Obtain your master’s degree or post-masters certificate with a Clinical Nurse Leader Focus from an accredited university. Your program should be aligned with the American Association of Colleges of Nursing Clinical Nurse Leader Competencies.

4

Join a membership association as a student, like the Clinical Nurse Leader Association to access resources and mentors.

5

Complete a minimum of 400 program supervised clinical hours required to sit for the Clinical Nurse Leader Certification Exam. Pass the Clinical Nurse Leader certification exam.



### Links for further reading

- Drake EE, DeGennaro G, Kuhn D. Master's Prepared Clinical Nurse Leaders: 2 to 10 Years Post-Graduation. *J Nurs Care Qual.* 2022 Oct-Dec 01;37(4):307-312. Accessed September 25, 2023.  
[https://journals.lww.com/jncqjournal/fulltext/2022/10000/master\\_s\\_prepared\\_clinical\\_nurse\\_leaders\\_\\_2\\_to\\_10.4.aspx](https://journals.lww.com/jncqjournal/fulltext/2022/10000/master_s_prepared_clinical_nurse_leaders__2_to_10.4.aspx).



### References

- The American Association of Colleges of Nursing - Clinical Nurse Leader: <https://www.aacnursing.org/cnl>



Earn pediatric nurse certification at [pncb.org](https://pncb.org)