

AFSC 46N4\*, Staff  
 AFSC 46N3\*, Qualified  
 AFSC 46N1\*, Entry

**★CLINICAL NURSE**  
**(Changed 31 Oct 23)**

**1. Specialty Summary.** Includes clinical nurses and clinical nurse specialists. Provides professional nursing care within scope of practice, established standards of care and federal and state laws. Acts as patient advocate and advances desired health outcomes through patient and family education. Coordinates with and makes recommendations to staff agencies concerning applicable policies, plans and programs. Participates in cross-functional collaboration to improve patient care delivery. Supports research activities. Related DoD Occupational Group for 46N3: 260518.

**2. Duties and Responsibilities:**

**2.1. Clinical Nurse.**

2.1.1. Provides comprehensive and specialty nursing care. Assesses health and health care needs of individuals and populations. Collects, records, and analyzes patient or population health data from preventive health assessments, nursing history, physical examinations and other sources. Uses data to determine nursing needs of patients/populations. Identifies expected health outcomes. Involves the patient, family, and community in setting realistic goals to achieve desired outcomes. Plans comprehensive care attains expected outcomes. Collaborates with other disciplines. Implements and evaluates nursing interventions. Conducts group and individual health teaching for patients, families, and community. Monitors and records patient and population health status. Uses ongoing assessment data to evaluate progress toward expected outcomes and revise plan of care as needed. Documents nursing actions and activities.

2.1.2. Supervises and manages nursing activities. Supervises nursing staff and evaluates clinical practice. Provides adequate staffing and supervision. Participates in and contributes to staff development programs.

**2.2. Clinical Nurse Specialists.** Expert clinician with advanced academic degree in selected nursing specialties. Renders direct patient care, including assessing, diagnosing, planning, and prescribing treatment of health problems, health promotion, and preventive care within the specialized area of practice. Sub-roles include patient and staff education, research, and consultation.

**3. ★Specialty Qualifications:**

3.1. Knowledge. Knowledge of principles and practices of nursing is mandatory.

3.2. Education. For entry into AFSC 46N1D/E/F/G/J/R, meet the entry level education requirements for appointment to the Nurse Corps for Active Duty, Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard. Must be a graduate of a baccalaureate degree program in nursing (BSN) accredited by a national nursing accrediting agency recognized by the US Department of Education. Registered nurses who are graduates of an associate's degree in nursing (ADN) and do not have a BSN are not eligible for accession unless they also have a post-baccalaureate (masters or doctorate) degree in nursing that is also nationally accredited and recognized by the US Department of Education <https://www.ed.gov/accreditation>.

3.3. Training. The following is mandatory for award of the AFSC indicated:

3.3.1. For award of a 46NX AFSC specialty shredout (D, E, F, G, J), completion of an AF/SG1N-approved formal training program or fellowship in a respective clinical specialty (excludes direct accessions for the E, F, G, J, and R specialties). For the AFR, E/J/G must be currently working in the clinical civilian setting on the suffix the AFR has accessed them into.

3.4. Experience. The following experience is mandatory:

3.4.1. Award of AFSC 46N3 (Qualified) requires a minimum of 12 months AF or civilian experience as a registered nurse.

3.4.2. For award of an AFSC 46N3 specialty shredout (E, F, G, J, R), a minimum of 6 months in the respective clinical specialty. The 6 months experience in the specialty may be included in the total experience required as part of or in addition to the 12 months experience as a registered nurse. Civilian clinical nursing experience, time spent in the Air Force Nurse Transition Program, or the applicable specialty training/fellowship program is creditable.

3.4.3. For award of AFSC 46N3D, a minimum of 6 months as an education and training officer in a 46N3D education and training authorization is required as part of or in addition to the 12 months experience as a registered nurse.

3.5. Other. For entry, award and retention of these AFSCs, the following are mandatory.

3.5.1. ★Unrestricted practice (excludes temporary restrictions) IAW DHA-PM 6025.13 Vol 4 and/or AFI 44-119, *Medical Quality Operations*.

3.5.2. Award of a specialty suffixed AFSC (excluding direct accessions for these specialties) requires approval by the Chief Nurse.

**4. \*Specialty Shredouts:**

*Suffix      Portion of AFS to Which Related*

D	Staff Development	Oversees and coordinates education and training activities.
E	Critical Care	Provides complex, intensive nursing care for children and adults.
F	Neonatal Intensive Care	Provides complex, intensive nursing care of critically ill neonates.

G	Obstetrical	Provides prenatal, perinatal, and postpartum nursing care. Manages newborn care immediately following delivery until discharge.
J	Emergency/Trauma	Provides emergency/trauma nursing care for infants, children, adolescents and adults.
R	Post Anesthesia Care Unit	Provides pre-anesthesia and post-anesthesia nursing care to patients who are undergoing a procedure.

4.1. Related DoD Occupational Health Group Numbers for the Specialty Shredouts:

- 4.1.1. 46N3D: 260508
- 4.1.2. 46N3E: 260510
- 4.1.3. 46N3F: 260512
- 4.1.4. 46N3G: 260513
- 4.1.5. 46N3J: 260517
- 4.1.6. 46N3R