



 Outlook

[External] CRNA Proposed Rulemaking

From Damian Richards <damianrichardscrna@gmail.com>
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To ST, RegulatoryCounsel <RA-STRegulatoryCounsel@pa.gov>
Cc jlpooles813@gmail.com <jlpooles813@gmail.com>

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To Whom it May Concern,

I would like to convey my support for regulation **16A-5145 (CRNA)**.

This rulemaking finally recognizes and licenses CRNAs as intended under Act 60 of 2021. The rulemaking solidifies the scope of practice for CRNAs to administer anesthesia in cooperation with and under the overall direction of licensed physicians, podiatrists, and dentists, while setting licensing fees and certification standards.

- CRNAs pride themselves on rigorous education and training standards. These regulations recognize the commitment each individual puts into their profession to provide the highest level of care. ***(I personally went to nursing school for 4 years, worked as an ICU nurse for 4 years at Hershey Medical Center and Geisinger Medical Center, then underwent 3 years of didactic anesthesia classes along with 3681hrs of active CRNA clinical training in OR settings at Reading Hospital and St Luke's Hospital - 11 total years of medical training.)***
- Because of CRNA training and experience, numerous medical studies show there is no statistical difference in patient outcomes when a nurse anesthetist provides treatment compared to a physician. In fact, these studies by nationally recognized health-care policy and research organizations prove that CRNAs provide high-quality care, even for rare and difficult procedures. **WE PROVIDE THE MAJORITY OF HANDS ON CLINICAL ANESTHESIA IN THE USA.**
- CRNAs remain the primary providers of anesthesia care in rural America **(Some of the places I personally practice)**, enabling health-care facilities in these medically underserved areas to offer obstetrical, surgical, pain management, trauma stabilization, and other services. Without CRNAs, facilities in rural areas and medically underserved communities would not be able to maintain these services, forcing many rural Americans to travel long distances for care.

I urge you to support this legislation in order to promote more accurate recognition for the CRNA profession which will in turn help ensure **safe, efficient, patient centered care in operative settings throughout this great commonwealth.**

God bless,

Damian Richards DNP, CRNA