



 Outlook

[External] CRNA Proposed Rulemaking

From Elizabeth Kerlik <lizkerlik@gmail.com>
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To ST, RegulatoryCounsel <RA-STRegulatoryCounsel@pa.gov>

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To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in response to the State Board of Nursing's proposed rulemaking, 16A-5145 (CRNA).

I am CRNA in PA and been working for 10 years at several different hospitals in the Pittsburgh area including a level 1 Trauma center, a large urban hospital, a suburban hospital, and an outpatient GI center.

- 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 trained at the University of Pittsburgh Nurse Anesthesia Program. I rotated through many UPMC facilities and specialties including cardiac, thoracic, vascular, pediatrics, etc. Pitt utilized simulation training for spinals, epidurals, arterial and central line insertion for proficiency.
- Because of their training and experience, numerous medical studies show there is no statistical difference in patient outcomes when a nurse anesthetist provides treatment. 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.
- Pennsylvania is among the top draws nationally for CRNA students, with 15 highly rated nurse anesthetist programs operating across the commonwealth. With these regulations, Pennsylvania is doing the right thing by strengthening existing CRNA programs and supporting the highly qualified professionals these programs produce.
- In today's changing health-care environment, patients want health care delivered with personal care, at a lower cost, with a high degree of confidence. CRNAs deliver all of these by staying with their patients throughout the entire procedure and ensuring that the whole of the patient is cared for --- physically, mentally and emotionally.

For all these reasons, I urge support for the proposed rulemaking. I appreciate all the work that has gone into finally giving CRNAs the recognition they deserve. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

SINCERELY,

Elizabeth Kerlik, MSN, CRNA
St. Clair Health, Periop Anesthesia, UPMC Shadyside