



 Outlook

[External] CRNA proposed rule making

From George Gardner <georgeh1717@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 regard to the State Board of Nursing's proposed rulemaking, 16A-5145 (CRNA). I truly applaud this positive step forward for the state and for our patients.

My name is George Gardner. I began practicing as an RN around the Pittsburgh area in 2017. I fell in love with the profession. After working in various ICUs and ERs throughout the pandemic I attended CRNA school. Upon graduating this past December, I was disheartened to recognize areas where Pennsylvania is lacking in recognition and definition of nurse anesthetists as advanced practice nurses.

· 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.

Myself and my colleagues pride ourselves on our education and training, by providing safe and timely anesthetic care to patients across the country. My schooling consisted of 3 years in a doctorate of nurse anesthesia program, after gaining critical care experience in the ICU and ER.

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,
Dr. George Gardner DNAP