



Outlook

[External] CRNA Proposed Rulemaking

From Dooley, Kristen <Kristen.Dooley@towerhealth.org>
Date Fri 7/25/2025 2:19 PM
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).

My name is Kristen Dooley and I am a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist working at Tower Health in Berks County Pennsylvania. I have been practicing for 12 years as a CRNA and 3.5 years prior as an RN. Let me tell you why this rulemaking is so important for my profession.

This rule making finally recognizes 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. While working in the ICU at Lehigh Valley hospital I took masters classes for two years. My schooling then consisted of 27 months in total at Frank J Tornetta School of anesthesia full time. After, I attained my job, I went back again while working to obtain my doctorate of nursing.

Because of our 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.

CRNAs remain the primary providers of anesthesia care in rural America, 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.

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,
Kristen Dooley, CRNA, MSN, DNP, BSN
Tower Health Hospital Reading PA

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