

**[External] CRNA Proposed Rulemaking**

From Nicole Appel <appelnr@gmail.com>
Date Tue 7/29/2025 9:54 AM
To ST, RegulatoryCounsel <RA-STRegulatoryCounsel@pa.gov>

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To Whom It May Concern,

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

My name is Nicole Omeis, and I am a certified registered nurse anesthetist (CRNA) working at Wellspan Chambersburg Hospital. I have been practicing as a CRNA for 12 years. My career in anesthesia began at UPMC Presbyterian Hospital in Pittsburgh, PA and after 4 years I decided to move back to my home town in rural PA to be closer to family. Working through Wellspan I provide anesthesia services at 2 rural hospitals, as well as an ambulatory surgery center. In addition to my full time position I have branched out for the past couple of years to provide anesthesia for an office-based ophthalmology group practicing as an independent CRNA, and work PRN at WVU Berkeley Medical Center in Martinsburg, WV. I love my career!

Nurse Anesthetists bring a high degree of competence and skill to our anesthesia practice. Having hands-on experience taking care of critically ill patients prior to graduate school, coupled with the rigorous curriculum of anesthesia training and competency exams, nurse anesthetists are highly skilled and educated providers of anesthesia care upon entering practice. Indeed medical studies provide data showing no statistical difference in patient outcomes with CRNAs providing anesthesia care. These studies prove that nurse anesthetists provide high quality care across various types of surgical cases.

Among the many reasons to recognize the vital role of CRNAs in anesthesia practice is the role we play in providing care in rural areas. CRNAs are the primary anesthesia providers in rural areas across the United States. Underserved areas rely on CRNAs to provide a wide array of anesthesia services, including obstetrical, trauma, surgical and pain management. Living in a rural area I have realized the limited access to care among certain disciplines, and greatly appreciate the need to maintain access to quality care in these areas.

Our current health care environment is a challenging arena with rising costs. Patients need competent, personal and quality care that is also affordable. CRNAs have been caring for patients safely at the bedside for many years, and meet these needs.

These are just a few of the reasons that I ask for support of the proposed rulemaking. I truly value the work that has been done to recognize the role of CRNAs. Thank you for your time and consideration for our practice.

Best Regards,

Nicole Omeis, MSN, CRNA
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