



 Outlook

[External] CRNA proposed rule making

From Vickie Riley <riley91110@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 have been a practicing Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist in Pittsburgh for 12 years and a nurse for over 20 years. I have nearly 10 years of education obtaining a bachelor's, master's, and eventually a doctorate degree. I've worked at several facilities in the area providing anesthesia, including one of the largest Level 1 trauma centers, community hospitals, out-patient procedure facility, as well as the Veterans hospital.

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 have spent thousands of clinical hours training at top facilities in the nation, in addition to the multiple degrees I have obtained in pursuit of learning how to best provide anesthesia in various settings.

Because of the training and experience required to be a CRNA, 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.

Nurse anesthetists have been the main providers of anesthesia care to U.S. military personnel on the front lines since World War I, and they remain the primary anesthesia providers in austere combat theaters. In fact, CRNAs most commonly are the only anesthesia providers in the military's forward surgical teams. As an anesthesia provider at the VA, many of my colleagues have told countless stories of their independent practices overseas serving in the military. It is not lost on any of us the waste of resources expended by not allowing CRNAs to work to their full scope of practice.

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,
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Sent from my iPhone