Memorandum of Understanding

This memorandum of understanding (MOU) is between the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists (AANA), located at 222 South Prospect Avenue in Park Ridge, IL and the National Board of Certification and Recertification for Nurse Anesthetists (NBCRNA) located at 8725 West Higgins Road - Suite 525, Chicago, IL. The purpose of this MOU is to memorialize the practical understanding and application of the new recertification requirement of the NBCRNA for assessed CE credit, as referenced in the Continued Professional Certification (CPC) program.

Relative to the term “assessed CE credit,” both parties agree that it is essential that the CE provider follow up with the CRNA to determine whether participation in the learning activity for which the CRNA is seeking CE credit informed or improved the CRNA’s knowledge regarding the practice of anesthesia. Moreover, it is agreed that the process of assessing the impact of a continuing education program occurs along a continuum and does not reflect a finite point or allow for a single option. In fulfilling the NBCRNA’s requirement for assessment, self-assessment would establish the minimum acceptable level of assessment necessary to meet the expectation of the CPC program’s requirement for assessed continuing education (CE) credit. On the other end of this continuum CE courses could involve formalized testing, complete with the requisite rigor, appropriate control and expectation attributed to that form of assessment. While testing is always a choice for assessment of learning, it is not the only choice and a multitude of options exist along the available spectrum. Thus, in the absence of existing requirements to the contrary, testing is not required to demonstrate that the CRNA has learned from the CE program, or that the CE program had adequately assessed learning.

The basis for determination of an appropriate form of assessment following a learning activity is that the assessment method validates the learning objectives of that activity. This agreement speaks to the “assessed CE” component of the CPC program and is not applicable to the competency modules or the CPC examination.

In recognition of this agreement, this document is signed by the President of each organization and will remain in effect while the Recognition Agreement between the AANA and NBCRNA is active, or until it is nullified by subsequent agreement or notification.

Dennis C. Bless, AANA President  
Signed and dated: 5/13/14

Chuck Vacchiano, NBCRNA President  
Signed and dated: 5/13/14