

AANA Document Definitions

Policy

These definitions are intended to assist nurse anesthetists and others in distinguishing the different types of documents contained in the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists (AANA) *Professional Practice Manual for the CRNA*. The AANA Practice Committee employs a systematic evidence-based review process to analyze current literature and research to develop or revise all practice-related documents. Ultimately, the AANA Board of Directors approves all documents based on the recommendation of the Practice Committee.

Document Name

Definition

Code of Ethics

The ethical responsibilities of the Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA) as a member of the profession of nurse anesthesia. The Code of Ethics consists of principles of conduct and professional integrity that guide decision making and behavior of the CRNA.

Scope of Practice

Guidance to nurse anesthetists, external entities, and others regarding the professional scope of nurse anesthesia practice. The scope of practice broadly defines the professional roles, functions, and responsibilities that CRNAs perform.

Standards

Evidence-based statements that describe the minimum requirements and responsibilities for anesthesia practice.

Guidelines

Evidence-based recommendations intended to optimize patient care and to assist nurse anesthetists, other anesthesia professionals, and patients in decision-making about appropriate healthcare for specific circumstances. Guidelines are not a substitute for the clinical judgment of the CRNA or other anesthesia professional, and do not establish legally enforceable requirements or responsibilities.

Position Statements

The AANA official position on a topic to provide direction on issues related to nurse anesthesia practice.

Practice Considerations

Documents intended to provide assistance and resources related to current or emerging aspects of nurse anesthesia practice.

Policy Considerations

Documents intended to assist in the development of policies that impact nurse anesthesia practice.

Advisory Opinions	Statements that provide general recommendations that reflect consensus of the anesthesia profession. May describe appropriate role/behavior/decision making for specific situations.
Joint Position Statements	Consensus statements promulgated by AANA and other professional organizations.

AANA Document Definitions: These definitions are intended to assist nurse anesthetists and other entities in distinguishing the different types of documents developed by the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists. Approved by the AANA Board of Directors April 2005, June 2008, and September 2018.

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