



CRNA Specialty Clinical Practice

Position Statement

Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs) provide anesthesia, analgesia and pain management services to patients at all acuity levels across the lifespan in a variety of settings.^{1,2} During their career, CRNAs may advance specialty clinical practice expertise and competency through various pathways.

The knowledge, experience, skills, attitudes, and judgment obtained during a nurse anesthesia education program establish the foundation for all specialty clinical practice. The decision to focus one's clinical practice on a specialty area is based on considerations unique to the individual CRNA.³ State law and regulation, reimbursement policy, and facility bylaws and policy are relevant factors in decisions related to specialty practice.³ The American Association of Nurse Anesthetists (AANA) supports the CRNA's choice of the learning pathway for specialty practice. AANA does not require specialty fellowship or certification for practice or licensure.

Specialty practice development over a career may encompass continuing education courses, workshops, self-study, mentored practice, accredited fellowships, as well as other educational activities.⁴⁻⁷ Ultimately, individual specialty practice evaluation occurs in the practice setting through peer review and a continuous quality improvement program.

The CRNA, as a leader of the healthcare team, engages in lifelong learning and professional development to address the unique acute and chronic needs of each patient.^{8,9}

References

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