In February 2020, the AANA Board of Directors approved the updated *Scope of Nurse Anesthesia Practice*. The *Scope*, first adopted in 1980 and most recently revised in 2013, describes the contemporary and comprehensive span of nurse anesthesia professional practice and serves as a resource to individual Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs), healthcare facilities, public policymakers, external stakeholders, patients, and others. This document shows how CRNAs are meeting the demands of an ever-changing healthcare environment and are leaders in the delivery of compassionate anesthesia and pain management care. The *Scope* illustrates CRNAs’ significant role throughout the perioperative process, in the management of acute and chronic pain, and in other clinical services, such as emergency, critical care, and resuscitative services. The *Scope* also includes CRNAs’ use of emerging techniques and monitoring modalities, such as point-of-care ultrasound.

Healthcare systems across the country increasingly rely on CRNAs for the incredible value they bring, particularly as healthcare administrators work to expand high-quality care at lower costs. As anesthesia experts, CRNAs serve a broad range of patients in ambulatory surgical centers, hospitals, procedure rooms, emergency rooms, and office-based settings, such as podiatry and dentistry. As advanced practice registered nurses, CRNAs collaborate with patients and a variety of healthcare professionals in order to provide patient-centered, high-quality, holistic, evidence-based, and cost-effective care.

The *Scope* outlines the professional role, education, licensure, certification, and accountability of CRNAs, many of whom have pivotal leadership roles, such as chief executive officer, administrator, director, practice owner, and national and international researcher. The substantial revisions and updates to *Scope* include links to *Clinical Privileges and Other Responsibilities of Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists*, which provides additional detail on CRNA professional practice, and the broader AANA resource library, which addresses on particular areas within professional scope.

The *Scope’s* development process integrated qualitative analysis and the evidence-based review process. Document development included review of *Clinical Privileges and Other Responsibilities of Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists* and supportive resources compiled during the development of that document; review of the Full Scope of Practice Competency Task Force recommendations; and several AANA Practice Committee meetings for input analysis and expert consensus.

The process also included input from a broad range of stakeholders and experts. In addition to the AANA Practice Committee and Professional Practice staff, the following AANA groups/representatives provided input and feedback: members who submitted comments during the open comment period; members who participated in the focus session conducted at AANA Leadership Summit, November 2019; State Government Affairs/Legal; Federal Government Affairs; Education Committee; and General Counsel. Representatives from the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs and the Chair of the Full Scope of Practice Competency Task Force also provided feedback. This extensive process culminated in the finalization of the *Scope*, encompassing several expanded sections, such as the user-friendly table that provides examples of responsibilities within CRNA clinical practice.

Every CRNA should read the *Scope of Nurse Anesthesia Practice*. Federal and state policymakers and healthcare organizations often rely on the *Scope* to understand the range of services provided by CRNAs with appropriate competencies and make decisions impacting CRNAs and patients. The demand for expert anesthesia professionals is rising, and lawmakers across the country are recognizing the need for patient access to the safe, high-quality care provided by CRNAs. State legislators increasingly support efforts to remove unnecessary restrictions and enable CRNAs to practice to the full extent of their education and training. Read the *Scope of Nurse Anesthesia Practice* at www.aana.com/PracticeManual. For questions or comments, please contact the AANA Professional Practice Division at practice@aana.com.