



Considerations for Adding New Activities to Individual CRNA Scope of Practice

Legislators and regulatory agencies look to the American Association of Nurse Anesthesiology (AANA) for resources that represent the professional practice of the Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA). The AANA develops documents and information to support scope of practice and policy decisions for the delivery of safe and effective anesthesia services. The *Scope of Nurse Anesthesia Practice* embodies the broad continuum of nurse anesthesia practice rather than a detailed list of nurse anesthesia services. It is developed and vetted through a process that reflects that the *Scope of Nurse Anesthesia Practice* is supported by:

1. The accredited education received by CRNAs
2. The evaluation and formal assessment by credentialing organizations
3. The dynamic and evolving nature of nurse anesthesia practice

Nurse anesthesia is a dynamic profession and throughout their careers, CRNAs will incorporate new techniques and technologies into their practice based on new scientific evidence, patient safety needs, and technological innovations that improve patient outcomes. The decision to add a new activity is complex and based on considerations unique to the individual CRNA, facility, and state where they practice. This document is intended to provide the CRNA with a tool to conduct an analysis of whether a specific procedure or technique is related to anesthesia, sedation, pain management, or related nursing services that are within the individual CRNA's scope of practice.

As advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) with advanced nursing competencies, CRNAs have a strong foundation in advanced physiology/pathophysiology, pharmacology, and advanced physical assessment. This foundation, coupled with the individual's relevant procedure-specific education, training, and clinical competencies, may allow for CRNAs to incorporate new activities into their practice that may not be represented in traditional anesthesia, sedation, or pain management roles (e.g., cosmetic injections, IV hydration therapy). Other procedures that have an anesthesia or pain management nexus may have additional state-level requirements as licensed professions (e.g., acupuncture).

This analysis checklist is not intended to be sequential, only to provide a framework for the individual CRNA to make an informed decision regarding his or her individual scope of practice. The CRNA, as always, is responsible for complying with applicable law and ensuring educational preparation and clinical competence to deliver the specified patient care in a safe and effective manner

Nurse Anesthesia Professional Scope, Standards, Guidelines, and Ethics

- Is the act related to anesthesia? If not, it may be within the RN scope of practice as determined by your state board of nursing (or applicable governing body). Consider consulting your state board of nursing.



- Is the act within your professional scope of practice as defined by the *Scope of Nurse Anesthesia Practice* and the *Clinical Privileges and Other Responsibilities of Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists*?
- Will the act be performed in compliance with the *Standards for Nurse Anesthesia Practice*?
- Is the act consistent with the ethical standards in the *Code of Ethics for the Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist*?

State and Federal Statutes, Regulations, and Rules

- Do you hold the appropriate licensure or authorization to practice in the state?
- Is the act expressly permitted or prohibited by the state nurse practice act, nursing rules and regulations, or other applicable state statute or regulations?
- Has the state board of nursing (or applicable governing body) rendered an opinion on whether the act is within CRNA scope of practice? You may consider consulting your state licensing board, which is typically the board of nursing.
- Is performance of the act in compliance with applicable federal authorities, such as Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) regulations?

Individual CRNA

- Would a reasonable and prudent CRNA perform this activity in this setting?
- Are you prepared to accept the responsibility of your actions?
- Is your performance of the act consistent with evidence-based care?
- Do you possess relevant procedure-specific education, training, and clinical competencies?
- Do you have access to the equipment and resources to perform the act safely and effectively?
- Have you demonstrated and maintained the competencies necessary for the privilege? AANA recommends that you maintain evidence of education, training, competence assessment, peer review, and outcomes, when available.
- Does the procedure meet applicable reimbursement criteria set by healthcare payers? Will you be reimbursed for the service?
- Will your professional liability carrier provide coverage for the procedure?

Facility

- Is performance of the act in compliance with state laws and regulations that apply to the facility in which the act will be performed (e.g., hospital, ambulatory surgical center, office-based practice)?
- Is performance of the act in compliance with accreditation standards that apply to the facility in which the act will be performed (e.g., hospital, ambulatory surgical center, office-based practice)?
- Do facility-approved policies and procedures, professional staff bylaws, quality improvement policies and processes, or other structures support performance of the act?
- Do you have the specific education and documentation of competency to apply for privileges to perform the act?



- Are you appropriately credentialed and privileged at your facility to perform this procedure or act?

Insurance Considerations

CRNAs are encouraged to consult with their malpractice insurance carrier to confirm coverage for the specific procedures at issue. CRNAs who are insured under their facility's malpractice insurance should address coverage questions with the facility's risk management department.

State Association Resources

CRNAs should consider contacting their state nurse anesthetist association for additional information regarding state scope of practice. The state nurse anesthetist association may be aware of resources addressing your question, including relevant state board of nursing documents.

Contact AANA

If you have questions as you work through or have completed the scope of nurse anesthesia practice analysis, please contact the Professional Practice Division at practice@aana.com or 847-655-8870.

AANA Resources

Additional resources are on the AANA website at www.aana.com. All Professional Practice documents can be accessed at www.aana.com > Practice > Professional Practice Manual.

- [Scope of Nurse Anesthesia Practice](#)
- [Standards for Nurse Anesthesia Practice](#)
- [Code of Ethics for the Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist](#)
- [Clinical Privileges and Other Responsibilities of Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists](#)
- [Exploring a Common Practice Question: CRNAs Asked to Practice as RNs, AANA NewsBulletin](#)
- [AANA State Government Affairs State Law and Practice](#)
- [Map of state nurse anesthetist associations by AANA Regions](#)

Other Resources to Review

- State Board of Nursing
- State Nurse Practice Act
- Facility Policies, Procedures, Professional Staff Bylaws, and Clinical Privileges

Sample State Decision Analysis Resources

1. American Nurses Association. Scope of Practice: Domains and Questions. Accessed at <http://www.nursingworld.org/EspeciallyForYou/AdvancedPracticeNurses/Scope-of-Practice-2/Scope-of-Practice/Scope-of-Practice-Domains-and-Questions.pdf>.



2. Klein, TA. Scope of Practice and the Nurse Practitioner: Regulation, Competency, Expansion, and Evolution. Accessed at <http://www.medscape.org/viewarticle/506277>.
3. Louisiana State Board of Nursing. Guidelines for Interpreting Scope of Practice for Advanced Practice Registered Nurses in Louisiana. Accessed at <http://www.lsbns.state.la.us/Portals/1/Documents/Forms/apscope.pdf>.
4. Oklahoma Board of Nursing. Decision-Making Model for Scope of Nursing Practice Decisions: Determining Advanced Practice Registered Nurse, Registered Nurse and Licensed Practical Nurse Scope of Practice Guidelines. Accessed at <https://nursing.ok.gov/prac-decmak.pdf>.
5. Maine State Board of Nursing. Scope of Practice Decision Tree. Accessed at <https://www.maine.gov/boardofnursing/docs/scopeofpracticetree.pdf>.
6. Nevada Board of Nursing. Determining Your Scope of Practice. Accessed at <https://nevadanursingboard.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/SOP-Tree.pdf>.
7. South Carolina Board of Nursing. Scope of Practice Decision Tree. Accessed at <http://www.llr.state.sc.us/POL/Nursing/PStatements/ScopeofPracticeDecisionTreeApproved072910.pdf>.
8. Washington State Department of Health. Scope of Practice Decision Tree. Accessed at <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/Pubs/669305.pdf>.

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