



# CRNAs Promote Dental Anesthesia Safety

Access to safe dental care is critically important to the overall health of children and adults. If your dental procedure requires sedation or anesthesia, the delivery of your anesthesia care is safest when provided by a qualified, licensed anesthesia professional working alongside the dentist —for your anesthesia care, consider a **Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA)**.



CRNAs possess the education, training, and skills to provide safe, high-quality, and cost-effective care as members of the patient-centered dental care team in all settings, including dental offices, in accordance with state law.

**It takes  
7-8.5  
years**

The amount of time needed for a nurse anesthesia student to complete coursework and clinical hours to attain a master's or doctoral degree in nurse anesthesia.

During that time the student will, on average, amass nearly **9,400 hours** of clinical experience.



As an increasing number of patients of all ages and health complexity seek sedation and anesthesia for dental procedures in office-based settings, it is important to keep patient safety central to the delivery of these services.

The use of sedation and anesthesia increases the complexity of dental care and emphasizes the importance of it provided by a qualified, licensed anesthesia professional, such as a CRNA, who is focused only on **patient safety, monitoring, and vigilance.**

## Sedation and anesthesia may be administered to ...



Children



Individuals with  
special needs



Adults

because of

- + Fear
- + Anxiety
- + Procedural Pain





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Sedation is a continuum that includes minimal sedation to general anesthesia. Each patient has a unique response to medications utilized for sedation and anesthesia. Therefore, moderate sedation may quickly transition to deep sedation and general anesthesia, affecting spontaneous ventilation and oxygenation and requiring immediate intervention.



Patients who require sedation or anesthesia for dental procedures can count on a CRNA to stay with them throughout their procedure, advocate on their behalf, and provide high-quality, patient-centered care.



When an anesthesia professional is available to continuously monitor the patient, he or she can focus on changes in the patient's condition and intervene as necessary in emergent situations.

As advanced practice registered nurses, CRNAs practice with a high degree of autonomy and professional respect. CRNAs can provide the full range of anesthetic services required within a dental practice while facilitating a safe and patient-centered environment.

## These services include, but are not limited to ...

**Patient  
and caregiver  
education**

**Preanesthesia  
assessment and  
evaluation**

**Establishing  
an anesthetic  
plan**

**Patient monitoring  
during the procedure**

**Postanesthesia  
care**

**Emergency  
management**

CRNAs can also assist a dental practice in aspects such as staff education, policy and procedure development, and quality improvement initiatives.

