



## **Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist Position Description**

*Sample*

### **Title**

Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA)

### **Supervised by**

Chief Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist

### **Description**

A Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA) in an advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) who practices both autonomously and in collaboration with a variety of health providers on the interprofessional team to deliver high-quality, holistic, evidence-based anesthesia and pain care services. The CRNA cares for patients at all acuity levels across the lifespan in a variety of settings for procedures including, but not limited to, surgical, obstetrical, diagnostic, therapeutic, and pain management.

### **Qualifications**

- Holds current active state licensure as a registered nurse in the state of \_\_\_\_\_ and complies with any applicable state statutory and regulatory requirements concerning CRNAs.
- Graduate of a nurse anesthesia educational program accredited by the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs or its predecessor.
- Is currently certified or recertified by the National Board of Certification and Recertification for Nurse Anesthetists.
- Insurable by an appropriate medical malpractice insurer for the limits required by this institution or state.
- Demonstrates current competency in the clinical responsibilities specified below.

### **Clinical**

Clinical responsibilities of the CRNA are delineated by his or her clinical privileges and may include:

- Perform and document the preanesthesia assessment and evaluation of the patient.
- Review, request, and order (as permitted by state law), laboratory/diagnostic studies.
- Obtain informed consent for anesthesia and related services.
- Select, obtain, order, and administer preanesthetic medication or treatment.
- Develop and implement an anesthesia care plan.
- Select, obtain, prepare, and use equipment, invasive and non-invasive monitors, supplies, and drugs for the administration of sedation, anesthesia, and pain management services; perform safety checks as needed.
- Select, order, obtain, and administer analgesic and anesthetic agents, adjuvant drugs, accessory drugs, fluids, or blood products necessary to provide anesthesia services.

- Perform all aspects of airway management, including fiberoptic intubation.
- Facilitate emergence and recovery from anesthesia by evaluating patient response, and selecting, ordering, and administering medications, fluids, and ventilator support to maintain patient stability during transfer.
- Initiate and administer post-anesthesia pharmacological or fluid support of the cardiovascular system.
- Initiate and administer respiratory support to ensure adequate ventilation and oxygenation in the postanesthesia period.
- Evaluate the patient's response to anesthesia and surgery; take appropriate corrective action during the postanesthesia period.
- Provide postanesthesia follow-up evaluation and care.
- Discharge the patient from the postanesthesia care unit.
- Implement acute and chronic pain management modalities.
- Manage emergency situations by assessing, stabilizing, and determining disposition of patients, including providing airway management, administration of emergency drugs and fluids, and using basic and advanced cardiac life support techniques.
- Place and manage regional anesthetic techniques, as delineated by his or her clinical privileges or granted special privileges, and may include:
  - Subarachnoid
  - Epidural
  - Caudal
  - Plexus, major and peripheral nerve block
  - Intravenous regional anesthesia
  - Upper and lower extremity block
  - Diagnostic and therapeutic nerve block
  - Transtracheal, topical, and local infiltration block
  - Retrobulbar block
  - Intracapsular, intercostal, and ocular block
  - TAP block
  - Insert and manage peripheral, arterial, pulmonary catheter, or central venous lines and catheters.
  - Provide care to patients in intensive care in accordance with facility policy.
  - Provide patient and caregiver education.
  - Perform arterial puncture to obtain arterial blood samples.
  - Consult with respiratory care providers and implement respiratory and ventilator care.

***[Sample language for advanced pain management. May require separate advanced pain management privileges.]***

- Using an interdisciplinary approach, including consultation or referral to another clinician, as appropriate, integrate non-pharmacologic pain management treatment modalities (e.g., hypnosis, acupuncture, massage, meditation, reflexology, relaxation techniques, biofeedback, counseling, physical therapy, occupational therapy, or therapeutic manipulation).
- Perform advanced and interventional pain management using drugs, regional anesthetic techniques or other accepted pain relief modalities with or without fluoroscopic guidance.
- Utilize ultrasound, fluoroscopy, CT guidance, or emerging imaging technology, as appropriate.

Increased clinical responsibilities may be added as additional education and experience is obtained by the individual practitioner.



## **Nonclinical**

Additional nonclinical responsibilities of the CRNA may include, but are not limited to:

- Quality assessment and quality assurance.
- Didactic and clinical education of students and staff.
- Appointment to facility committees and related activities.
- Interdepartmental liaison responsibilities.
- Clinical or administrative oversight of other departments (e.g., respiratory therapy, PACU).

## **Patient Safety**

Supports patient safety when performing his or her job functions and through participation in facility, department or unit patient safety initiatives.

- Takes action to correct observed risks to patient safety.
- Reports adverse events and near misses to appropriate management authority.
- Identifies possible risks in processes, procedures, devices and communicates the same to those in charge.

## **Professional Development**

- Participates in required educational programs.
- Participates in monthly departmental meetings.
- Seeks ongoing professional educational growth.
- Maintains current licensure requirements for CRNA practice.

## **Knowledge, Skills, Abilities**

- Ability to perform clinically as a nurse anesthetist in the facility setting on a regular basis.
- Ability to operate, use, and interpret data from a wide variety of equipment to perform anesthesia care as well as necessary perioperative or operating room care to support the safety and wellbeing of the patient while they are under the direct care of the CRNA.
- Effective verbal and written communication skills are required to effectively collaborate with various clinical staff and other disciplines.
- Ability to demonstrate knowledge and skills necessary to provide care appropriate to the patient population(s) served.
- Ability to demonstrate knowledge of the principles of growth and development over the life span and ability to assess data reflective of the patient's requirements relative to his or her population-specific and age specific needs.
- Knowledge of infection prevention and control techniques.
- Ability to maintain confidential records.
- Ability to implement and adhere to facility policies and procedures.



I attest that I am physically and mentally capable of providing the services indicated in this position description. Procedures describing the process for assignment, suspension or revocation of these clinical responsibilities have been given to me. I have received a copy of this position description, the anesthesia department's guidelines, policies and procedures, and applicable [facility/system] medical staff bylaws, rules and regulations, and policies and procedures.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Supervisor Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**DISCLAIMER**

This sample position description is designed to be used as a guide. Each individual facility is responsible for and determines the level of detail and applicability. Identify any gaps between this sample position description and your practice and carefully consider any unintended consequences. This information is provided as a service to our members and does not constitute legal advice. Federal, state, and local law and regulations should be consulted. Each individual utilizing this resource should consult with legal counsel in his or her state (or the state in which you intend to practice) to be properly advised on any laws or regulations governing his or her business practices.

---

*Updated March 2017*