

CRNAs: Ensuring Safe Anesthesia Care

WHY SURGEONS AND OTHER HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS RELY ON CRNAs

Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs) are advanced practice registered nurses who collaborate with surgeons, obstetricians, dentists and other healthcare providers to deliver safe, high-quality and cost-effective anesthesia care to patients in virtually every healthcare setting.

Access to Care



CRNAs practice in **all 50 states** and in the military, safely providing more than 50 million anesthetics each year.

Patient Safety



National studies confirm that CRNAs are integral to high-value anesthesia care delivery where quality and safety are emphasized.*



Anesthesia care is **nearly 50x safer** than it was in the 1980s.**

This is due to **advancements in monitoring** technology, anesthetic drugs, provider education, and standards of care.

Risk Management



CRNAs are **educated, trained and experienced** in providing anesthesia care for complicated medical procedures and handling emergency situations.



As licensed professionals, CRNAs are responsible and accountable for decisions made and actions taken in their professional practice.



Case law shows that surgeons and other healthcare providers face no increase in liability when working with a CRNA versus a physician anesthesiologist.

For a surgeon (or other healthcare provider) to be liable for the acts of an anesthesia professional, the surgeon must control the actions of the CRNA or anesthesiologist and not merely supervise or direct them.



Courts apply the same standard to judge whether a surgeon is liable for the acts of a CRNA or an anesthesiologist.

On a nationwide basis, the average 2020 malpractice liability insurance premium for self-employed CRNAs was **36 percent less than it was in 1988**. When trended for inflation through 2020, **the reduction in premium is 71 percent**.



Cost Savings

Healthcare facilities that hire anesthesiologists to supervise CRNAs in an effort to manage risk may more than triple the costs of anesthesia delivery without improving patient outcomes, lowering risk or reducing liability coverage costs.



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