



Nurse Anesthesiology and the State of New Hampshire

- Approximately 260 Certified Registered Nurse Anesthesiologists (CRNAs) are employed to deliver anesthesia services in the State of New Hampshire. Nurse Anesthesiologists are advanced practice nurses (most with Masters and Doctorate degrees), with specialty education in Nurse Anesthesiology. All Nurse Anesthesiologists are board certified.
- Nurse Anesthesiologists and our Physician Anesthesiologist counterparts deliver identical services. Nurse Anesthesiologists and Physician Anesthesiologists practice in the same settings: hospitals, same-day surgical centers, ambulatory surgical centers, physician and dentist offices, and chronic pain management clinics.
- Anesthesia services include: Preoperative assessment, administration of anesthesia via a variety of techniques, monitoring of patient stability, providing appropriate interventions to provide patient stability, post operative stabilization and treatment, critical care management, obstetric care, anesthesia for dentistry, and chronic pain management for all age groups.
- There are several practice models, but regardless of the practice model, there is no statistically significant difference in the risk for anesthesia complications (*Negrusa et al, Medical Care Journal, 2016*) or outcomes (*Dulisse, Health Affairs, 2010*). Research continues to conclude that there is no clinical superiority of one practice model over another (*Lewis, Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews*). Studies recommend the elimination of duplicative Physician Anesthesiologist medical direction requirements: No harm found when Nurse Anesthesiologists work without Supervision by a Physician (*Health Affairs, 2010;29(8): 1469-1475*).
- In a 2019 review of malpractice insurance premiums for self-employed Nurse Anesthesiologists, rates were 33% less than in 1988. Physician presence has no impact on insurance premiums for Nurse Anesthesiologists. There is no increased legal exposure for facilities that do not employ a Physician Anesthesiologist. <https://www.aana.com/membership/become-a-crna/crna-fact-sheet>
- Of the 28 hospitals in New Hampshire, Nurse Anesthesiologists practice autonomously in 12 (43%) of the State's hospitals. Additional autonomous anesthesia care is performed in Ambulatory Surgical Centers, Dental and Physician offices, and pain management centers.
- Nurse Anesthesiologists are frequently utilized in rural and underserved areas to ensure access to high quality, cost effective care within patients' own communities.

Regardless of the delivery model, anesthesia services are reimbursed at the same rate, but the cost of providing anesthesia varies greatly depending on the type of provider. Anesthesia services provided by autonomous Nurse Anesthesiologists are the most economically efficient model. When Nurse Anesthesiologists practice independently, anesthesia care costs 25% less (*Hogan, Nursing Economic\$, 2016*).

Contact Us: NHANA, 17 Depot Suite 3, Concord, NH 03301, 603.228.1601. info@nhana.org



Our relationship with you is paramount and our objectives are simple:

1. To provide factual, clear information that communicates the role and responsibilities of CRNAs, our value, and the crucial role CRNAs play in New Hampshire's healthcare community.
2. To advocate for our profession through positive relationships with our legislators that work in the best interest of the citizens of our State.
3. To ensure that the citizens of New Hampshire continue to enjoy expert anesthesia care and continued access to care in an economically sustainable, safe model.
4. To ask for your support as we strive to serve New Hampshire's communities and patients by providing care to the fullest extent of our licensure and training and describing ourselves to patients in a way that clearly explains that we are advanced practice nurses who are experts in anesthesia care.