



TxANA
TEXAS ASSOCIATION of
NURSE ANESTHETISTS

DENTAL ANESTHESIA CARE

INFORMATION PACKET



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TXANA



Hi There!

THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME TO REVIEW OUR PACKET REGARDING HOW CRNAS BENEFIT PATIENTS RECEIVING DENTAL ANESTHESIA CARE.

CRNAs have been providing anesthesia care in the field of dentistry for decades. In 1999, the Texas Legislature authorized dentists to delegate the provision of anesthesia to CRNAs, so long as the dentist has a permit for the type of anesthesia that the CRNA is performing. Up until 2017, dentists were able to rely on CRNAs to provide their patients with safe anesthesia care with very few barriers to practice because, there were very few requirements for dentists seeking anesthesia permits.

In response the 87th Session's Sunset Bill, the Texas State Board of Dental Examiners (TSBDE) has adopted very strict anesthesia permitting requirements. While this was a necessary change, it has had the unintended consequence of also limiting the CRNA's ability to provide dental anesthesia care. Many dentists have decided not to seek a permit due to these requirements, and instead are required to find an anesthesiologist, who are able to provide care regardless of the dentist's permit level or send their patient elsewhere. CRNAs are just as competent as they have always been, but as a result of the dated statutory language, they are being forced out of dentists' offices.

The Texas Legislature should remedy this by removing the requirement that dentists have a permit when the CRNA provides care. CRNAs receive rigorous anesthesia training, so there is no need for a dentist to also meet the training requirements the TSBDE has adopted. This change would dramatically increase access to care by ensuring those dentists without permits are still able to treat patients who need anesthesia. There is already a severe shortage of anesthesia care in many Texas communities, so given the number of dentists letting their permits lapse, this legislative fix is needed now more than ever.

Thank you!



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GET TO KNOW A CRNA

CRNAS HAVE PROVIDED HIGH QUALITY, SAFE, AND COST-EFFECTIVE ANESTHESIA CARE FOR MORE THAN 150 YEARS.

The first anesthesia specialists were nurses who began providing anesthesia during the American Civil War; physicians did not begin specializing in anesthesia until decades later.

CRNAs administer more than 50 million anesthetics to patients in the United States annually.

CRNAs practice in every setting anesthesia is delivered, including operating rooms and obstetrical delivery rooms; the offices of dentists, podiatrists, ophthalmologists, and plastic surgeons; as pain management specialists; and in the U.S. military

CRNAs are the sole anesthesia providers in most rural Texas counties. Most rural Texas hospitals rely solely on anesthesia delivered by CRNAs to ensure the provision of obstetrical, surgical, and trauma stabilization services.

Military CRNAs continue to be the primary anesthesia providers in all theaters of operation. Nurse anesthetists have been the main providers of anesthesia care to U.S. military personnel on the front lines since WWI.

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



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

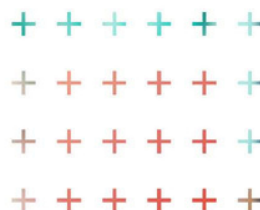
Establishing an anesthetic plan

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.








THANK YOU!

The unintended consequences of the recent stringent anesthesia permitting requirements imposed by the Texas State Board of Dental Examiners (TSBDE), lead to a decline in CRNAs' ability to deliver dental anesthesia care. **Again, we call for a legislative remedy, proposing the removal of the requirement for dentists to hold a permit when CRNAs provide anesthesia care.** This change is deemed necessary to enhance access to care by allowing CRNAs to continue their vital role in dental settings, particularly in light of the existing shortage of anesthesia care in many Texas communities. CRNAs undergo rigorous anesthesia training, eliminating the need for dentists to fulfill additional training requirements.

HOW TO REACH TXANA

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