



**TxANA**  
TEXAS ASSOCIATION of  
NURSE ANESTHETISTS

*Advancing patient safety and the profession of nurse anesthesia*

### **TxANA Statement on Anesthesia Delivery in Texas**

*The following statement on anesthesia delivery in Texas can be attributed to Dru Riddle, PhD, DNP, CRNA, FAAN, President of the Board of Directors of the Texas Association of Nurse Anesthetists (TxANA):*

“The role of Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs) is vital to ensuring accessible, affordable health care in Texas.

The delivery of anesthesia services by a CRNA in Texas is the practice of professional nursing. CRNAs are licensed by the Texas Board of Nursing and a CRNA’s scope of practice is clearly defined by the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists.

CRNAs provide the full scope of anesthesia care services including inpatient, outpatient, pain management, and obstetrical anesthesia. CRNAs practice as the sole anesthesia provider working independently with physicians providing surgical, interventional, and obstetrical care to Texans. Under this well-established practice model, the CRNA receives an order from a physician—usually the operating surgeon or obstetrician—authorizing them to select the drugs and devices necessary to administer anesthesia. The order is not required to specify a particular drug or dosage; these decisions are made independently by the CRNA in developing the anesthesia plan for the patient. When a CRNA administers anesthesia, the individual is engaged in the practice of nursing, rather than performing a delegated act of medicine. CRNAs also practice within the Anesthesia Care Team model working collaboratively with other anesthesia practitioners in Texas.

In addition to providing quality care, CRNAs are responsible for training the next generation of anesthesia providers, called Student Registered Nurse Anesthetists (SRNAs). CRNAs are well trained anesthesia professionals extremely familiar with the thorough education and capabilities of SRNAs. We are therefore qualified to ensure patient safety by determining if direct supervision of an individual SRNA is required. However, we defer to the American Society of Anesthesiologists’ judgment as to whether a physician anesthesiologist is capable of ensuring the same standards without direct supervision.

CRNAs are highly educated anesthesia professionals who provide the full range of anesthesia and pain management services. As advanced practice registered nurses, CRNAs have been providing anesthesia in the United States for more than 150 years.

We’re proud of the role CRNAs play in our larger health care system, including our role as the primary or sole anesthesia provider in [many rural Texas communities](#).

And, we take seriously the role we play in providing high-quality, safe anesthesia care for Texans, both when CRNAs practice independently and when we are part of an Anesthesia Care Teams (ACT).”

**Texas Association of Nurse Anesthetists**

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*For more information on the AANA's Scope of Practice for CRNAs, [click here](#).*

*For more information on the work and scope of CRNAs in Texas, [click here](#).*

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