

Clinical Practice

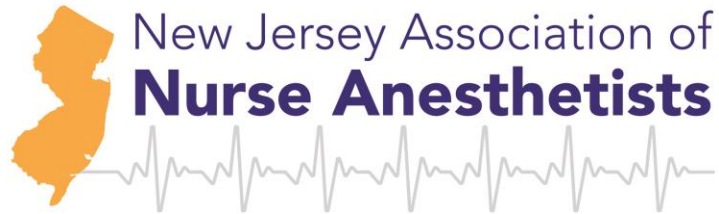
CRNAs practice according to their expertise, state statutes or regulations, and institutional policy.

CRNAs administer anesthesia and anesthesia-related care in four general categories:

- (1) preanesthetic preparation and evaluation;
- (2) anesthesia induction, maintenance and emergence;
- (3) postanesthesia care; and
- (4) perianesthetic and clinical support functions.

The CRNA scope of practice includes, but is not limited to, the following:

1. Performing and documenting a preanesthetic assessment and evaluation of the patient, including requesting consultations and diagnostic studies; selecting, obtaining, ordering, or administering preanesthetic medications and fluids; and obtaining informed consent for anesthesia.
2. Developing and implementing an anesthetic plan.
3. Selecting and initiating the planned anesthetic technique that may include general, regional, and local anesthesia and intravenous sedation.
4. Selecting, obtaining, or administering the anesthetics, adjuvant drugs, accessory drugs, and fluids necessary to manage the anesthetic, to maintain the patient's physiologic homeostasis, and to correct abnormal responses to the anesthesia or surgery.
5. Selecting, applying, or inserting appropriate noninvasive and invasive monitoring modalities for collecting and interpreting patient physiological data.
6. Managing a patient's airway and pulmonary status using endotracheal intubation, mechanical ventilation, pharmacological support, respiratory therapy, or extubation.
7. Managing emergence and recovery from anesthesia by selecting, obtaining, ordering, or administering medications, fluids, or ventilatory support in order to maintain homeostasis, to provide relief from pain and anesthesia side effects, or to prevent or manage complications.
8. Releasing or discharging patients from a post-anesthesia care area and providing post-anesthesia follow-up evaluation and care related to anesthesia side effects or complications.



9. Ordering, initiating or modifying pain relief therapy, through the utilization of drugs, regional anesthetic techniques, or other accepted pain relief modalities, including labor epidural analgesia.
10. Responding to emergency situations by providing airway management, administration of emergency fluids or drugs, or using basic or advanced cardiac life support techniques.
11. Additional nurse anesthesia responsibilities which are within the expertise of the individual CRNA.

The functions listed above are a summary of CRNA practice and are not intended to be all-inclusive. A more specific list of CRNA functions and practice parameters is detailed in the *AANA Scope of Nurse Anesthesia Practice and Standards for Nurse Anesthesia Practice*. See [AANA Practice Documents](#)