



New Jersey Association of
Nurse Anesthetists

Impacts of Joint Protocol



- With only 1,200 physician anesthesiologists and around 1,000 CRNAs and APN-Anesthesia providers in the state, a Joint Protocol severely restricts the choices CRNAs and APN-Anesthesia providers have regarding employment opportunities, and reduces the ability for doctors and patients to choose the anesthesia team or provider that works best for them.
- Access to quality healthcare has been reduced in urban and rural areas where medical facilities may be unable to staff a licensed physician anesthesiologist.
- The cost of anesthesia care has been driven up and there has been an overall rise in surprise medical bills to patients.
- The efforts to combat the opioid crisis in collaboration with other physicians have been obstructed from accessing CRNAs proficient in opioid sparing techniques in their offices and ambulatory surgery centers.
- New Jersey institutions provide a rigorous and outstanding education for CRNAs and APN-Anesthesia providers who graduate with doctorates and more than 10,000 hours of specialized medical training. And, more importantly, 100% of them are nationally board-certified to practice anesthesia at the same level as our physician anesthesiologist colleagues.
- Unfortunately, 50% of these highly trained professionals leave to practice in states without Joint Protocol, such as NY, PA and DE, because of the tremendously different impact they can have on patient care. All CRNA and APN-Anesthesia providers carry malpractice insurance equal to that of physician anesthesiologists and have an exceptional safety record resulting in decreases in annual premiums every year for the last 8 years.