



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 most with 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.
- 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 10 years.
- Unfortunately, 50% of these highly trained professionals leave to practice in states without Joint Protocols, such as NY, PA and DE, because of the tremendously different impact they can have on patient care.