



Pennsylvania Association of Nurse Anesthetists

Position Statement on Nurse Anesthesia Trainee Clinical Supervision and Nurse Anesthesia Trainee Descriptors

PANA recognizes the authority of The Council on Accreditation for Nurse Anesthetists (COA) granted by both the U.S. Department of Education (USDE) and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) as an accrediting agency for the accreditation of nurse anesthesia programs in the United States. In fact, the COA is the sole agency with the authority to establish educational requirements for programs that prepare qualified registered nurses to become CRNAs, including clinical supervision of nurse anesthesia students.

The COA limits supervision of nurse anesthesia trainees to CRNAs or Anesthesiologists who are institutionally credentialed to practice and are immediately available for consultation in a ratio of no more than two nurse anesthesia trainees to one CRNA or two nurse anesthesia trainees to one anesthesiologist. This means that nurse anesthesia trainees are not required to have continuous physical clinical supervision and are expected to develop both clinical decision-making and autonomy as an advanced practice clinician in training.

PANA also supports the COA's position statement regarding nurse anesthesia trainee descriptors. The COA's Accreditation Standards, Policies, and Procedures do not require programs to use specific titles or descriptors. The COA supports each nurse anesthesia program in determining the title that works best for them to indicate both the clinical experience as registered nurses and the role of Doctoral Nurse Anesthesia trainees. The following options may be used to identify nurse anesthesia trainees, but programs are not limited to these options:

1. SRNA (Student Registered Nurse Anesthetist)
2. RRNA (Resident Registered Nurse Anesthetist)
3. NAR (Nurse Anesthesia Resident)
4. RNAR (Registered Nurse Anesthesia Resident)

[Standards for Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Programs - Practice Doctorate, revised October 2019.pdf](#)

***The PANA position statement is based on the Council of Accreditation (COA) position statement and therefore is subject to any changes or updates made in the COA statement.*