



**ARIZONA STATE SENATE**  
*Fiftieth Legislature, Second Regular Session*

**AMENDED**

FACT SHEET FOR S.B. 1362

certified registered nurse anesthetists

Purpose

Codifies the Board of Nursing (Board) rules relating to *certified registered nurse anesthetists* (CRNAs).

Background

Statute currently allows a licensed registered nurse who has completed a nationally accredited program in anesthesia to administer anesthetics under the direction of and in the presence of a licensed physician or surgeon. *Presence* means *within the same room or an adjoining room or within the same surgical or obstetrical suite* (A.R.S. § 32-1661).

According to the May 2011 Office of Auditor General (OAG) performance audit of the Board, one of the rules exceeds the Board's statutory authority. The rule in question provides for the Board to authorize a CRNA to prescribe medication, meaning *to order drugs or medication for administration to a patient, only if in the best interest of the public* (A.A.C. R4-19-515). However, statute authorizes CRNAs to administer anesthetics, not to prescribe medication (A.R.S. § 32-1661). The OAG report recommends that either statute needs to be amended or Board rules modified to reflect the accurate scope of CRNAs.

As the Board has already been charging CRNAs a \$150 fee for certification, there is no anticipated fiscal impact to the state General Fund associated with this legislation.

Provisions

1. Allows the Board to certify a licensed registered nurse as a CRNA if the nurse meets the following requirements:
  - a) submits an application as prescribed by the Board;
  - b) has completed an accredited program recognized by the Board in the science of anesthesia;
  - c) is certified by a national certifying body recognized by the Board; and pays the \$150 certification fee.
2. Permits a CRNA to administer anesthetics under the direction of and in the presence of a physician or surgeon in connection with the preoperative, intraoperative or postoperative care of a patient or as part of a procedure performed by a physician or surgeon in the following settings:
  - a) a health care institution;

- b) an office of a licensed podiatrist, dentist, medical doctor (MD) or doctor of osteopathic medicine (DO); or
  - c) an ambulance.
3. Authorizes a CRNA in prescribed settings or in connection with the preoperative, intraoperative or postoperative care of a patient to:
    - a) issue a medication order;
    - b) assess the patient's health status as that status relates to the risks associated with anesthetic management;
    - c) obtain informed consent;
    - d) order and evaluate laboratory and diagnostic test results and perform point of care testing that the CRNA is qualified to perform;
    - e) order and evaluate radiographic imaging studies that the CRNA is qualified to order and interpret;
    - f) identify, develop, implement and evaluate an anesthetic plan of care for a patient;
    - g) take action necessary in an emergency situation; and
    - h) perform therapeutic procedures that the CRNA is qualified to perform.
  4. Specifies that a CRNA's authority to administer anesthetics or to issue a medication order as outlined does not constitute prescribing authority.
  5. Allows the Board to issue a temporary CRNA certificate to a registered nurse who has met all the requirements except those relating to submitting an application or paying the certification fee.
  6. Specifies that the initial application fee for CRNA certification is \$150.
  7. Defines *medication order* as *a written or verbal communication given by a CRNA to a health care professional to administer a drug or medication.*
  8. Defines *certified registered nurse anesthetist, presence* and *health care institution.*
  9. Repeals current provisions on the administration of anesthetics by a registered nurse.
  10. Contains a grandfather clause providing certification for current CRNAs.
  11. Makes conforming changes.
  12. Becomes effective on the general effective date.

Amendments Adopted by the Healthcare & Medical Liability Reform Committee

1. Clarifies that CRNAs may carry out their duties during intraoperative care, in addition to preoperative or postoperative care of a patient as part of a procedure performed by a physician or surgeon.

2. Makes technical and clarifying changes.

Amendments Adopted by the Committee of the Whole

- Clarifies that a CRNA *evaluates* tests and imaging studies rather than *interprets* them.

Senate Action

HMLR	2/8/12	DPA	5-0-1-0-0
3 <sup>rd</sup> Read	2/28/12		30-0-0-0-0

Prepared by Senate Research

February 28, 2012

MY/JD/tf