



Statement on Requirements for Clinical Supervision of Student Registered Nurse Anesthetists

(Draft approval, Board of Directors, New Hampshire Association
of Nurse Anesthesiologists on February 8, 2022)

The New Hampshire Association of Nurse Anesthesiologists (NHANA) Board of Directors endorses the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Education Programs (COA) October 2019 statement of review and revised accreditation standards and definitions related to clinical supervision of student registered nurse anesthetists (SRNAs).

The revision clarifies requirements that state: “Supervision at clinical sites is limited to certified registered nurse anesthetists (CRNAs) and physician anesthesiologists who are institutionally credentialed to practice and immediately available for consultation.”

“Clinical supervision” is defined and reflects that the CRNA and/or physician anesthesiologist are the only individual(s) responsible for the clinical oversight of the student registered nurse anesthetist. Furthermore, the definition of “clinical supervision” posits that the CRNA and/or physician anesthesiologist are the only practitioners responsible for providing direct guidance to the student, evaluating student performance, and approving a student’s anesthesia plan of care.

In the instances in which different types of nursing and/or physician practitioners or other anesthesia providers participate in a case, at no time may these personnel supervise the student registered nurse anesthetist unless they meet the “clinical supervision” requirement as stated. Moreover, “clinical supervision” in non-anesthetizing locations (i.e. intensive care unit, emergency department) is restricted to “credentialed experts” authorized to assume responsibility for the student registered nurse anesthetist in the area of specialization for which they have been trained.

“Credentialed expert” is defined as an individual awarded a certificate, letter, or other testimonial to practice a skill in an institution. The credential must attest to the individual’s right and authority to provide services in the area of specialization they have been trained.

In the interests of patient safety, quality of anesthesia care, and the most appropriate nurse anesthesia training environment, the NHANA Board of Directors further endorse the COA clinical site standards that state: despite the complexity of the anesthetic and/or surgical procedure, the student’s

knowledge and skill, and the patient comorbidities, at no time does the clinical supervision of the student registered nurse anesthetist by a CRNA and/or physician anesthesiologist exceed a 2:1 ratio.

References

Standards for Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Programs – Practice Doctorate, revised January 30, 2021. Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Education Programs.