The Nebraska Board of Medicine and Surgery

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Nebraska Board of Medicine

Opinion on the Credentialing Review Application for Anesthesiologist Assistants

As the Board of Medicine, our primary concern is always patient safety and protection. After reviewing the credentialing application for Certified Anesthesiologist Assistants to be licensed in Nebraska, we are confident that the new credential would improve Nebraskan's access to health care without jeopardizing public safety in anyway. Anesthesiologist Assistants are trained extensively in the delivery and maintenance of quality anesthesia care at one of thirteen accredited programs across the United States. This training generally averages 600 classroom hours and 2600 hours of clinical training. We are particularly encouraged that anesthesiologist assistants would practice as part of an anesthesia care team, meaning they are always under the on-site supervision of a physician anesthesiologist. As evidenced in the application materials, anesthesiologist assistants are authorized to practice in twenty-one jurisdictions across the country and are delivering care in hospitals and other settings with a scope of practice that is generally the same as a nurse anesthetist.

In summary we believe that there are real issues facing Nebraskans in accessing need medical care in a timely fashion. This proposal would help address those challenges in a proven fashion that keeps patient safety front of mind. We hope the technical review committee agrees with our conclusions.

The position as stated in this letter represents the position of the Board of Medicine and Surgery and does not necessarily represent the position of the Department of Health and Human Services or the Division of Public Health.

Sincerely,

Board of Medicine and Surgery

Jodanne W. Hedrick DO

Jodanne W. Hedrick, DO, Chairperson