Certified Anesthesiologist Assistants in Nebraska

Questions from the Technical Review Committee

1. Cost of CAA tuition
2. Map of Job Openings in Nebraska
3. Reimbursement of CAAs
4. Effect of Licensure on Other States
5. Benefits of CAAs in Rural Settings

Cost of Tuition for CAAs, CRNAs, PAs

CAA (UMKC)

- Tuition per year
  - $32,462 (resident)
  - $38,975 (non-resident)
- Tuition Cost (Program
  - $65,283 (resident)
  - $77,950 (non-resident)

*Does not include living expenses

https://med.umkc.edu/msa/costs/

PA (UNMC)

- Tuition per year
  - $18,950 (resident)
  - $49,260 (non-resident)
- Total Costs (per year)
  - $55,545 (resident)
  - $87,135 (non-resident)
- Program Cost
  - $109,005 (resident)
  - $172,180 (non-resident)

CRNA (Clarkson)

- Tuition per year
  - $25,301 per year
- Program Costs
  - $64,111 (based on 61 hours at $1051 per hour)
  - $95,436

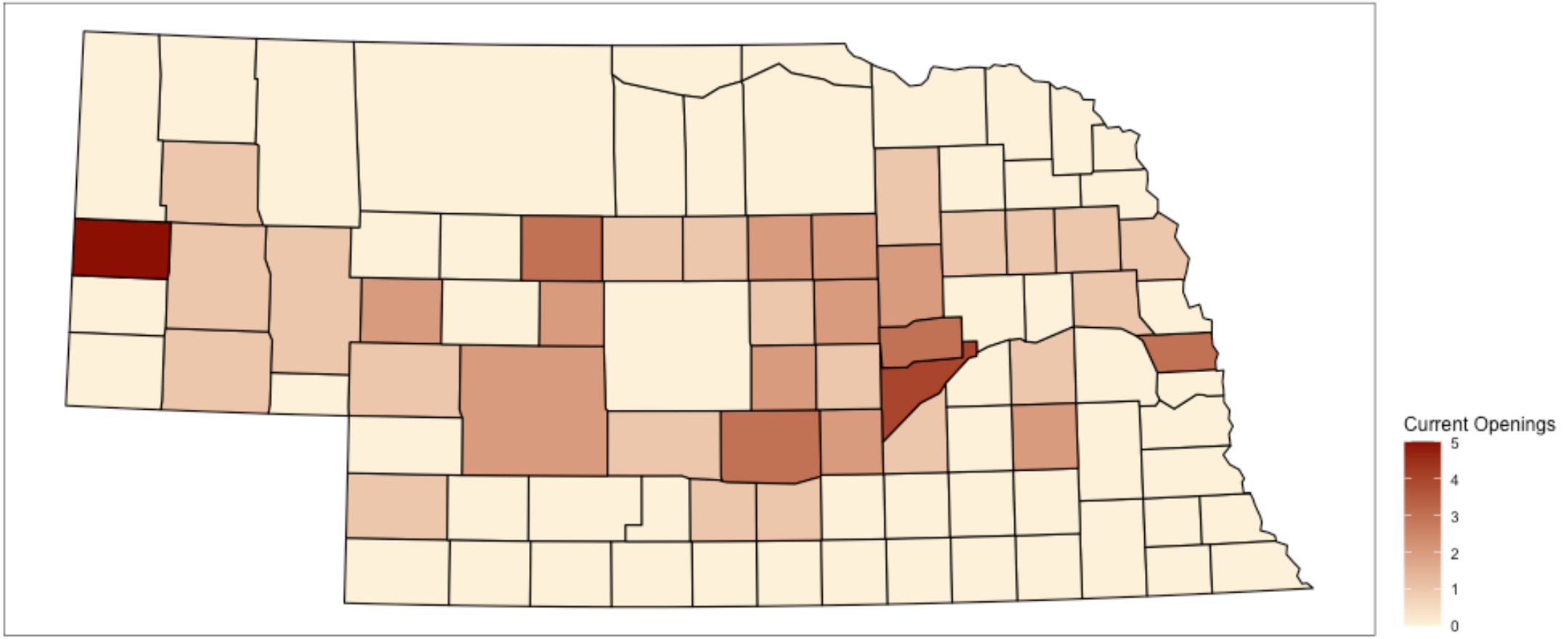
*Does not include living expenses or fees

https://www.clarksoncollege.edu/nursing/degree-options/nurse-anesthesia/

https://www.all-crna-schools.com/clarkson-college-nurse-anesthesia-program/

Map of Openings in Nebraska

Full-Time CRNA Job Openings by County (62 Positions Total)



Source: GasWork.com job board, last accessed on 9/16/2022

Effect of Licensure on Other States

State	Employment (1)	CAA	Employment per thousand jobs	Location quotient (9)	Hourly mean wage	Annual mean wage (2)
Texas	3,920	250/6.3%	0.32	1.03	$ 94.97	$ 197,540
Florida	3,310	514/15.5%	0.38	1.23	$ 82.19	$ 170,950
Minnesota	2,890		1.06	3.39	$ 103.11	$ 214,460
Ohio	2,810	291/10.3%	0.54	1.73	$ 90.10	$ 187,410
New York	2,130		0.25	0.79	$ 108.26	$ 225,180

Benefits of CAAs in Rural Settings

Rural Pass Through

Nurse Anesthetists work at 100% of critical access hospitals in Nebraska.

- Currently there are 63 critical access hospitals in Nebraska

CRNA's and CAA's can "pass-through" Medicare Part B and bill from Part A.

Does not include physician anesthesiologists

Limits the ability of physicians to practice in rural settings.

CMS will not permit hospitals to use pass-through arrangement for physician services.

Nebraska and Advance Practice Providers

1. Nurse Anesthetists - 386
2. Nurse Practitioners - 1571
3. Nurse Midwives – 39
4. Physician Assistants – 1087

Physicians in Nebraska – 4906

- Care provided by a variety of healthcare providers in Nebraska
- Each geographic area, hospital, group gets to determine their need

Licensure Comparisons

Physician Assistant Licensure

- Master's Program (2+ years)
- Same pre-requisites as medical school

Certified Anesthesiologist Assistant Licensure

- Master's Program (2+ years)
- Same pre-requisites as medical school

Practice Comparison

- **Physician Assistant Licensure**
  - Work with under supervision of physicians to provide care

- **Certified Anesthesiologist Assistant Licensure**
  - Work with under supervision of physicians to provide care

CAA’s represent another advanced practice provider able to provide essential anesthesia services to Nebraskans.

Shortage of Anesthesia Providers

State of Nebraska Data

“This study finds there is still a shortage of CRNAs in Nebraska”

”124 CRNAs are projected to be in need by 2025”

AAMC

Shortage of 12,500 anesthesiologists by 2033

BLS Data

7600 new positions will be be needed by 2028

12.6% growth between 2020 and 2030

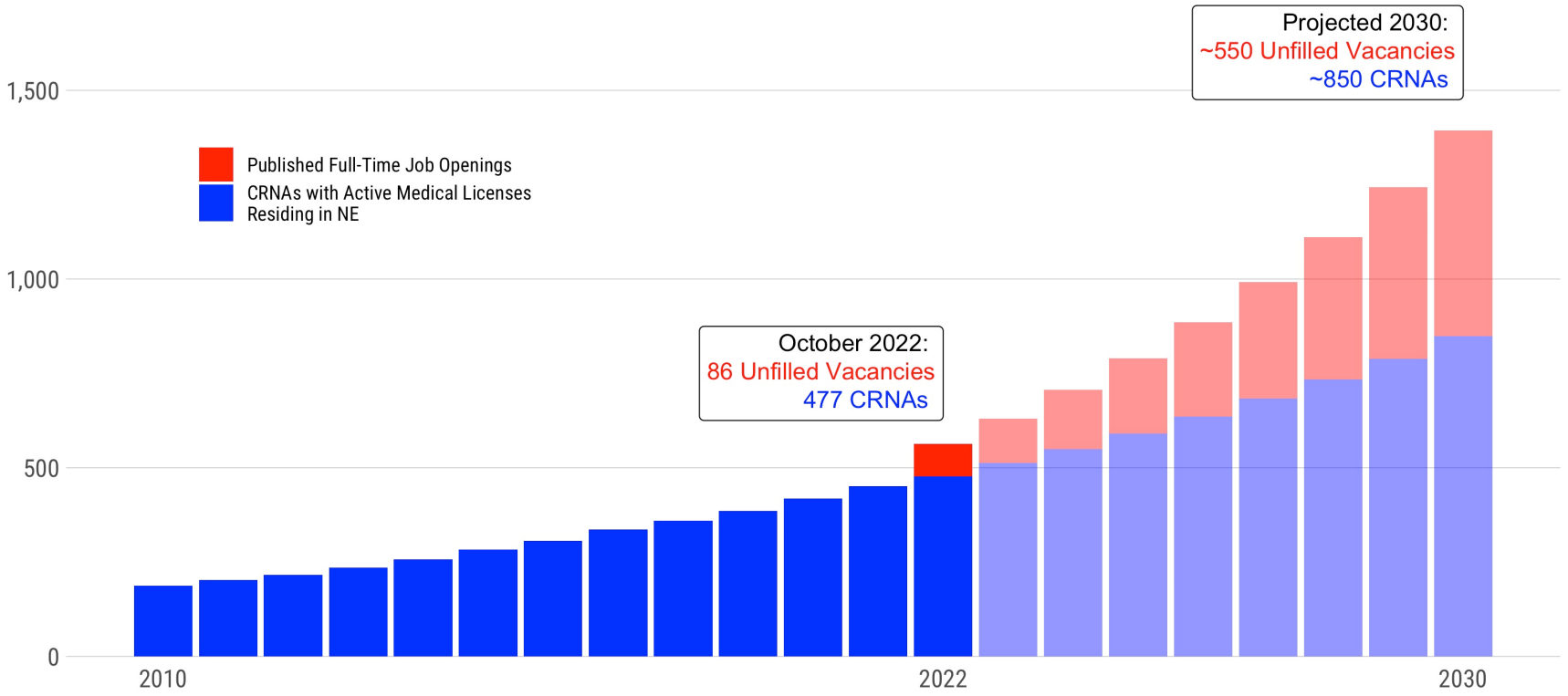
Locums Use

Use of nurse anesthetists as locum tenens jobs are up 28% in the past year

https://www.amnhealthcare.com/siteassets/amn-insights/surveys/amn-survey-locum-tenens-2022.pdf

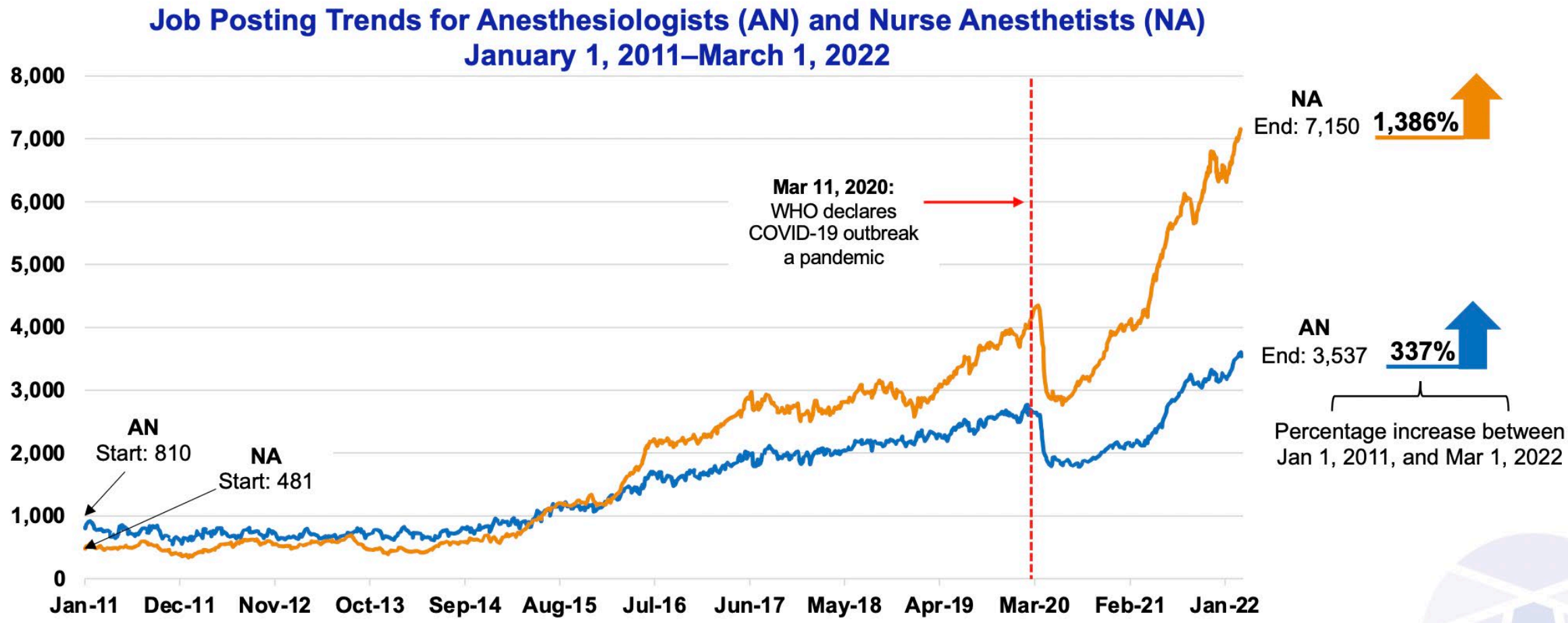
https://www.bls.gov/emp/tables/emp-by-detailed-occupation.htm

CRNA Full-Time Job Vacancies in Nebraska



Data Sources:
Nebraska Medical Board CRNA Practioner List;
GasWork.com CRNA Job Board;
CRNA Openings Posted on NE Hospital Websites;
and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
Occupational Outlook Handbook, Nurse Anesthetists, et al
https://bit.ly/3MnNfMG

The Growing Workforce Challenge
GasWork Job Postings, 2011–2022



Source: www.GasWork.com, an anesthesia employment resource, January 1, 2011–March 1, 2022.

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Shortage Making the News

National anesthesiologist shortage impacting NC facilities, including UNC hospital

by: Maggie Newland
Posted: May 23, 2022 / 12:08 AM EDT
Updated: May 23, 2022 / 12:09 AM EDT

Hospital limits services over staff shortage in anesthesia department

Changes as of May 1 include putting elective sedation on hold, cutting hours for planned c-sections, more.

TBnewsWatch.com Staff
Apr 12, 2022 5:30 PM

Need for temporary anesthesia providers remains high, pointing to growing shortage

Patsy Newitt - Thursday, June 2nd, 2022

https://www.cbs17.com/news/local-news/orange-county-news/national-anesthesiologist-shortage-impacting-nc-facilities-including-unc-hospital/
https://www.tbnewswatch.com/local-news/hospital-limits-services-over-staff-shortage-in-anesthesia-department-5259460
https://www.beckersasc.com/anesthesia/need-for-temporary-anesthesia-providers-remains-high-pointing-to-growing-shortage.html

Delays in Care

PRESS RELEASE · AUG | 18 | 2022

Surgical Backlogs From COVID-19 Persist and Could Have Serious Healthcare Consequences Going Forward

"Our study and others have also indicated that COVID-19 likely caused the deferral of millions of elective procedures nationwide, suggesting large backlogs of case volumes and more advanced disease states and poorer outcomes for patients when they finally get treated."

https://www.massgeneral.org/news/press-release/surgical-backlogs-covid-19-persist-serious-consequences

Managing an OR with CAAs

Cornhusker Hospital – 10 OR's + 2 GI Suites

OR 1 Physician A + CAA	OR 2 Physician A + CAA	OR Physician A + CAA	OR 4 Physician A + CAA
OR 5 Physician B + CAA	OR 6 Physician B + CAA	OR 7 Physician B + CAA	OR 8 Physician B + CAA
OR 9 Physician C + CAA	OR 10 Physician C + CAA	GI 1 Physician C + CAA	GI 2 Physician C + CAA

Managing ORs with CAAs

Bluejay Hospital – 10 OR's + 2 GI Suites

OR 1 Physician A + CRNA	OR 2 Physician A + CAA	OR Physician A + CRNA	OR 4 Physician A + CAA
OR 5 Physician B + CAA	OR 6 Physician B + CRNA	OR 7 Physician B + CAA	OR 8 Physician B + CRNA
OR 9 Physician C + CAA	OR 10 Physician C + CAA	GI 1 Physician C + CRNA	GI 2 Physician C + CRNA

Managing ORs with CAAs

Maverick Hospital – 10 OR's + 2 GI Suites

OR 1 Physician A + CRNA	OR 2 Physician A + CRNA	OR Physician A + CRNA	OR 4 Physician A + CRNA
OR 5 Physician B + CRNA	OR 6 Physician B + CRNA	OR 7 Physician B + CRNA	OR 8 Physician B + CRNA
OR 9 Physician C + CRNA	OR 10 Physician C + CRNA	GI 1 Physician C + CRNA	GI 2 Physician C + CRNA

Managing ORs with CAAs

Loper Hospital – 10 OR's + 2 GI Suites

OR 1 Physician A + CRNA	OR 2 Physician A + CRNA	OR Physician A + CRNA	OR 4 Physician A + CAA
OR 5 Physician B + CRNA	OR 6 Physician B + CRNA	OR 7 Physician B + CAA	OR 8 Physician B + CAA
OR 9 Physician C + CRNA	OR 10 Physician C + CAA	GI 1 Physician C + CAA	GI 2 Physician C + CRNA

Managing ORs with CAAs

- Cornhusker Hospital
  - 3 Physicians
  - 12 CAAs
- Bluejay Hospital
  - 3 Physicians
  - 6 CRNAs
  - 6 CAAs
- Maverick Hospital
  - 3 Physicians
  - 12 CRNAs
- Loper Hospital
  - 3 Physicians
  - 8 CRNAs
  - 4 CAAs

- All run 12 rooms
- All able to accommodate changes in providers (CAA for CRNA and vis a versa)
- Both provide safe, quality care for patients

Billing with CAAs or CRNAs

- Anesthetic billing is base units + time (15-minute increments)
  - Cataract – 4 units + time
  - Liver Transplant – 29 units + time

- That billing is shared within the care team model
  - CAA/CRNA gets 50%, physician gets 50%
  - If independent practice (QZ billing), CRNA would get 100%
    - QZ billing does not always indicate no physician involvement
    - Nebraska Medicine bills QZ but has physician oversight

Billing with CAAs or CRNAs

- Insurance does not pay an increased cost for CAAs within the care team model
- Taxpayers (Medicare, Medicaid) does not incur higher costs for CAAs within the care team model

Modifier	Description	Payment
AA	Anesthesia Services performed personally by the anesthesiologist	100% of the allowed amount to the physician anesthesiologist
AD	Medical Supervision by a physician; more than 4 concurrent anesthesia procedures	The Part B Contractor may allow only three base units per procedure when the anesthesiologist is involved in furnishing more than four procedures concurrently or is performing other services while directing the concurrent procedures. An additional time unit may be recognized if the physician can document he or she was present at induction.
QK	Medical direction of two, three or four concurrent anesthesia procedures involving qualified individuals	The allowed amount is evenly split between the physician anesthesiologist and the qualified nonphysician anesthetist(s)
QX	Qualified nonphysician anesthetist with medical direction by a physician	The allowed amount is evenly split between the physician anesthesiologist and the qualified nonphysician anesthetist
QY	Medical direction of one qualified nonphysician anesthetist by an anesthesiologist	The allowed amount is evenly split between the physician anesthesiologist and the qualified nonphysician anesthetist
QZ	CRNA without medical direction by a physician	The nurse anesthetist receives 100% of the allowed amount

Thank You

We appreciate your time and welcome any questions.