

NEBRASKA ACADEMY OF ANESTHESIOLOGIST ASSISTANTS

May 23, 2022

Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services
Dr. Anthone, MD
Director of the Division of Public Health
PO BOX 95026
Lincoln, NE 68509

Dear Dr. Anthone:

Please accept this letter to serve as the Nebraska Academy of Anesthesiologist Assistants' (NE-AAA) Letter of Intent to initiate a review of the certified anesthesiologist assistant profession under the Credentialing Review Program.

The NE-AAA proposes that certified anesthesiologist assistants (CAAs) be eligible for licensure in Nebraska. CAAs are highly skilled health professionals who work within a care team under the supervision of licensed physician anesthesiologists to implement anesthesia care plans and provide direct care to patients.

We expect to have a completed Credentialing Review application submitted to the Department before June 13 and have included the required \$500 fee with this letter of intent.

CAAs work through licensure in fifteen states and the District of Columbia, and are granted practice privilege through physician delegation in an additional four states. CAAs are recognized by the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and are defined as qualified nonphysician anesthetists.

All CAAs must complete a comprehensive didactic and clinical program and students graduate with a masters' degree. All AA programs are affiliated with medical schools and are accredited by the Commission on the Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs. To be admitted into a CAA training program, students must have earned a baccalaureate degree with premedical coursework. AA programs are between 24-27 months and students graduate with an average of 2600 clinical hours and earn a master's degree. CAAs must pass a national certification exam and complete 40 hours of continuing education every two years. CAAs must pass a recertification exam every ten years in order to continue practicing.

CAAs are trained extensively in the delivery and maintenance of quality anesthesia care as well as advanced patient monitoring techniques. CAAs perform such tasks as administering drugs, obtaining vascular access, applying and interpreting monitors, establishing and maintaining a patient's airway, and preoperative assessment. CAAs work under the supervision of physician Anesthesiologists who retain responsibility for the immediate care of the patient.

The NE-AAA looks forward to working with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, our professional CRNA and physician colleagues, and all other stakeholders on this important proposal to serve Nebraskans more effectively and efficiently by safely increasing access to anesthesia care.

Sincerely,

Ryan Nathan, CAA
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