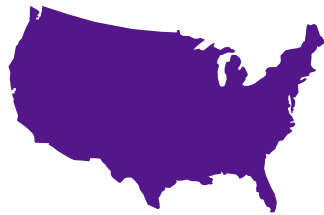# CRNAs: Ensuring Safe Anesthesia Care

WHY SURGEONS AND OTHER HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS RELY ON CRNAs

Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs) are advanced practice registered nurses who collaborate with surgeons, obstetricians, anesthesiologists, dentists and other healthcare providers to deliver safe, high-quality and cost-effective anesthesia care to patients in virtually every healthcare setting.

Access to Care

CRNAs practice in **all 50 states** and in the military, safely providing more than 43 million anesthetics each year.

Patient Safety

A landmark study confirms that anesthesia care is equally safe regardless of whether it is provided by a CRNA working alone, an anesthesiologist working alone or a CRNA working with an anesthesiologist.*

Anesthesia care is **nearly 50x safer** than it was in the 1980s.**

This is due to **advancements in monitoring** technology, anesthetic drugs, provider education, and standards of care.

Risk Management

CRNAs are **educated and trained** to provide anesthesia care for complicated medical procedures and handle emergency situations.

As licensed professionals, CRNAs are responsible and accountable for decisions made and actions taken in their professional practice.

Case law shows that surgeons and other healthcare providers face no increase in liability when working with a CRNA versus an anesthesiologist.

For a surgeon (or other healthcare provider) to be liable for the acts of an anesthesia professional, the surgeon must control the actions of the CRNA or anesthesiologist and not merely supervise or direct them.

Courts apply the same standard to judge whether a surgeon is liable for the acts of a CRNA or an anesthesiologist.

CRNA malpractice liability premiums are **33 percent lower** than 30 years ago, **67 percent lower** when adjusted for inflation. CRNAs carry insurance coverage for all the services they provide.

Cost Savings

Healthcare facilities that hire anesthesiologists to supervise CRNAs in an effort to manage risk may more than triple the costs of anesthesia delivery without improving patient outcomes, lowering risk or reducing liability coverage costs.

*RTI
**Institute of Medicine (now National Academy of Medicine)

CRNAs
The Future of Anesthesia Care *Today*

AANA
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF NURSE ANESTHETISTS