

Department of Health
Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission

Advisory Opinion

The Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission (NCQAC) issues this advisory opinion in accordance with [WAC 246-840-800](#). An advisory opinion adopted by the NCQAC is an official opinion about safe nursing practice. The opinion is not legally binding and does not have the force and effect of a duly promulgated regulation or a declaratory ruling by the NCQAC. Institutional policies may restrict practice further in their setting and/or require additional expectations to assure the safety of their patient and/or decrease risk.

Title: Mobile Anesthesia: Scope of Practice for Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioners **Number:** NCAO 21.00

References: [RCW 18.79 Nursing Care](#)
[WAC 246-840 Practical and Registered Nursing](#)
[WAC 246-817-701 Administration of Anesthetic Agents for Dental Procedures](#)

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Supersedes: Not Applicable

Approved By: Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission

Conclusion Statement

The Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission (NCQAC) concludes that it is within the scope of practice of the Certified Nurse Anesthetist (ARNP-CRNA) to provide patients mobile anesthesia services. The ARNP-CRNA providing mobile anesthesia services will adhere to the standards developed by the [American Association of Nurse Anesthetists \(AANA\)](#).

Background and Analysis

There are some unique and specific responsibilities that should be considered prior to administration of anesthesia in the office setting. When considering an office based practice, anesthesia professionals should determine if there are appropriate resources to manage the various levels of anesthesia for the planned surgical procedures and the condition of the patient. Most office based practice settings are not regulated, therefore the ARNP-CRNA should consider the benefit of uniform professional standards regarding practitioner qualifications and training, equipment, facilities and policies that ensure the safety of the patient during operative and anesthesia procedures in the office setting (AANA, 2015).

The NCQAC received a request for clarification of processes to assure safe mobile anesthesia practice due to several incidents. This advisory opinion was developed with assistance of CRNAs practicing mobile anesthesia. The AANA provides specific guidelines and the expected procedures and standards to assure safe “mobile anesthesia” practice.

CRNAs have long provided anesthesia services in physicians' offices. As the professional organization representing nurse anesthetists, the AANA advocates high quality, appropriate standards of care for all patients in all settings, including the office-based practice setting. As in other settings, CRNAs provide anesthesia working with physicians such as surgeons, anesthesiologists, podiatrists, dentists and other healthcare professionals.

The AANA has been at the forefront in establishing clinical practice standards, including patient monitoring standards. The standards for care in the office-based setting are congruent with the AANA Scope and Standards for Nurse Anesthesia Practice and are intended to:

1. Provide assistance to CRNAs and other practitioners by promoting a common base for the delivery of quality patient care in the office based setting.
2. Assist the public in understanding what to expect from the practitioner.
3. Support the basic rights of patients.

Recommendations

The ARNP-CRNA will successfully complete training and pass certification from an accredited body of education recognized and endorsed by the National Board of Certification for Nurse Anesthetists. The NCQAC recommends the standards for mobile anesthesia practice set forth by the AANA as the standard to assure safe practice.

Conclusion

Mobile anesthesia may be safely performed by ARNP-CRNAs that are proficient in, and exhibit the skills, ongoing training, and knowledge in mobile anesthesia techniques, equipment, and processes.

References

American Association of Nurse Anesthetists - Standards for Office Based Anesthesia Practice:

www.aana.com