CERTIFIED REGISTERED NURSE ANESTHETISTS

Playing a Vital Role in Washington’s Health

History:

1891: Sister Peter Chrysologous Crevier administered anesthesia at Providence Hospital in Seattle
1899: Sister Mary Gregory Jutras administered anesthesia at Sacred Heart Hospital in Spokane
1935: School of Nurse Anesthesia founded at Sacred Heart Hospital in Spokane - it continues to this day as the Sacred Heart Medical Center / Gonzaga University Master of Anesthesiology Education Program
2003: Governor Locke signs CMS Opt Out authorizing CRNA independent practice without physician supervision

Education:

To become a CRNA, a candidate must:

Obtain a 4-year baccalaureate degree and be licensed as a Registered Nurse
Have a minimum of one year critical care nursing experience
Obtain a Master’s degree in Nurse Anesthesia from an accredited program (minimum 2 years)
Pass a national board certification examination
Obtain an Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner License from Washington State

Demographics:

There are currently 607 active practicing and 29 student CRNAs in Washington
CRNAs provide anesthesia in all setting: Hospitals, Ambulatory Surgery Centers, Offices, and Pain Clinics
CRNAs administer anesthesia at 67% of all Hospitals*
CRNAs administer anesthesia at 93% of all Rural Hospitals*
CRNAs are the only anesthesia providers at 72% of all Rural Hospitals*
* of hospitals that provide surgical services

Obstetrical Anesthesia:

CRNAs provide obstetrical anesthesia at 61% of all Hospitals
CRNAs provide obstetrical anesthesia at 88% of all Rural Hospitals
CRNAs are the only obstetrical anesthesia providers at 84% of all Rural hospitals

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