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April 10, 2018

John Stitt, MSNA, APRN, CRNA
President, Vermont Association of Nurse Anesthetists

Dear John:

The transition to practice period for Vermont CRNAs is not typical of other states' laws. The vast majority of states do not have a period of hours of restricted practice for CRNAs who have recently completed their educational program and passed the certification exam.

Nurse anesthesia students are trained to be the provider in the operating room who is solely responsible for the patient's anesthesia care. CRNAs work closely with the provider who is performing the procedure, but each provider contributes their own area of expertise to provide the best care to the patient.

The following criteria from the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs "Standards for Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs"¹ support that nurse anesthesia students are educated and trained to be responsible for the anesthesia care they provide:

C17. The clinical curriculum provides students with opportunities for experiences in the perioperative process that are unrestricted, and promote their development as competent safe nurse anesthetists.

C18. The nurse anesthesia clinical curriculum prepares the student for the full scope of current practice in a variety of work settings and requires a minimum of 600 clinical cases and 2000 clinical hours including a variety of procedures, techniques, and specialty practice (see Appendix and Glossary – Clinical Hours).

C18. The nurse anesthesia clinical curriculum prepares the student for the full scope of current practice in a variety of work settings and requires a minimum of 550 clinical cases including a variety of procedures, techniques, and specialty practice (see Appendix).

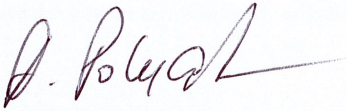
C19. The program provides opportunities for students to obtain clinical experiences outside the regular clinical schedule by a call experience or other mechanism (see Glossary: Call Experience).

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C21. The program demonstrates that graduates have acquired knowledge, skills and competencies in patient safety, perianesthetic management, critical thinking, communication, and the competencies needed to fulfill their professional responsibility.

We are not aware of any data comparing states that have transition to practice with those that don't, since transition to practice requirements are so rare for CRNAs. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at 847-655-1131 or apolyak@aana.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "A. Polyak", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Anna Polyak, RN, JD
AANA Senior Director, State Government Affairs and Legal