



NBCRNA
National Board of Certification & Recertification for Nurse Anesthetists

2018 ANNUAL REPORT

FY 2018: SEPTEMBER 1, 2017 - AUGUST 31, 2018



The National Board of Certification and Recertification for Nurse Anesthetists (NBCRNA) promotes patient safety through credentialing programs that support lifelong learning. The rigorous and demanding initial education and training, followed by the ongoing continued certification, places nurse anesthetists at the forefront of a growing movement to ensure continuing competency in health care practitioners.

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About the NBCR NA

The National Board of Certification and Recertification for Nurse Anesthetists (NBCR NA) is a not-for-profit corporation dedicated to promoting patient safety by enhancing provider quality in the field of nurse anesthesia. We accomplish our mission through the development and implementation of credentialing programs that support lifelong learning among nurse anesthetists.

NBCR NA credentialing provides assurances to the public that CRNAs have met objective and predetermined qualifications for providing nurse anesthesia services. While state licensure provides the legal credential for the practice of professional nursing, private, voluntary certification indicates compliance with the professional standards for practice in this clinical nursing specialty.

Mission

The mission of the NBCR NA is to promote patient safety through credentialing programs that support lifelong learning.

Vision

The vision of the NBCR NA is to be recognized as the leader in advanced practice nurse credentialing.

Responsibility

The NBCR NA is responsible for ensuring that the credentialing standards of nurse anesthetists meet nursing specialty accreditation standards and support competency among nurse anesthesia providers.

Value of the CRNA Credential

Value Statement

The NBCRNA was created in recognition of the importance the nurse anesthesia profession places on patient safety. Our primary responsibility is to guard the well-being of the public by seeking to ensure that nurse anesthetists have the necessary knowledge and skills to practice safely and effectively. In so doing, we also protect the value of the CRNA credential. A rigorous national entry process helps assure that those who secure the CRNA credential enter the profession with the knowledge and demonstrated skills necessary to practice, however this is only the first step.

Those who earn the credential dedicate themselves to lifelong learning, which ensures continued competence in the specialty.

The continued certification process developed by the NBCRNA involves a robust and regular assessment of nurse anesthesia professional practice. NBCRNA regularly assesses the evolving knowledge and continued competencies required

in anesthesia health care practice. Our initial certification and continued certification programs meet or exceed the expectations of patients and family members, the requirements of employers, and the demands of regulatory authorities to verify that nurse anesthetists continue to be recognized as providing the safest and best anesthesia care possible. The NBCRNA's autonomy enables us to be objective and credible and ensures that the integrity of the CRNA credential cannot be questioned.

What does the CRNA credential mean to you?

"Maintaining CRNA credentials helps support our profession and visibility of the important work we do. We provide not only safe care to our patients but care on an unparalleled level. Nurses are consistently the most trusted profession, and I'm honored to do it at an advanced level."



Jennifer Brady, DNP, CRNA
Staff Nurse Anesthetist
Fort Campbell, KY

CRNA certification creates undeniable value as evidenced by:

Patients, employers, and regulators recognize that the CRNA credential stands for quality and competence in nurse anesthesia practice, creating numerous opportunities in various practice settings in an ever-changing and evolving health care environment.

The rigorous and demanding initial education and training, followed by the ongoing continued certification that is required, places nurse anesthetists at the forefront of a growing movement to ensure continuing competency in health care practitioners.

The high standards for achieving and maintaining the CRNA credential rightly instill confidence among certificants in their professional ability to provide safe, individualized care to the patients they serve.

Dedication to high standards in certification and continued certification is reflected in the NBCRNA's commitment to ensure that competency evolves consistent with advances in technology and the increasing complexities of patient care. This dedication benefits both patients and nurse anesthetists. Evidence confirms that care provided by nurse anesthetists is of equivalent quality to that provided by physician anesthesia providers. This enviable safety record has led to increasing numbers of opportunities for nurse anesthetists to work independently and has been recognized in lower malpractice premiums.

Value of the CRNA Credential

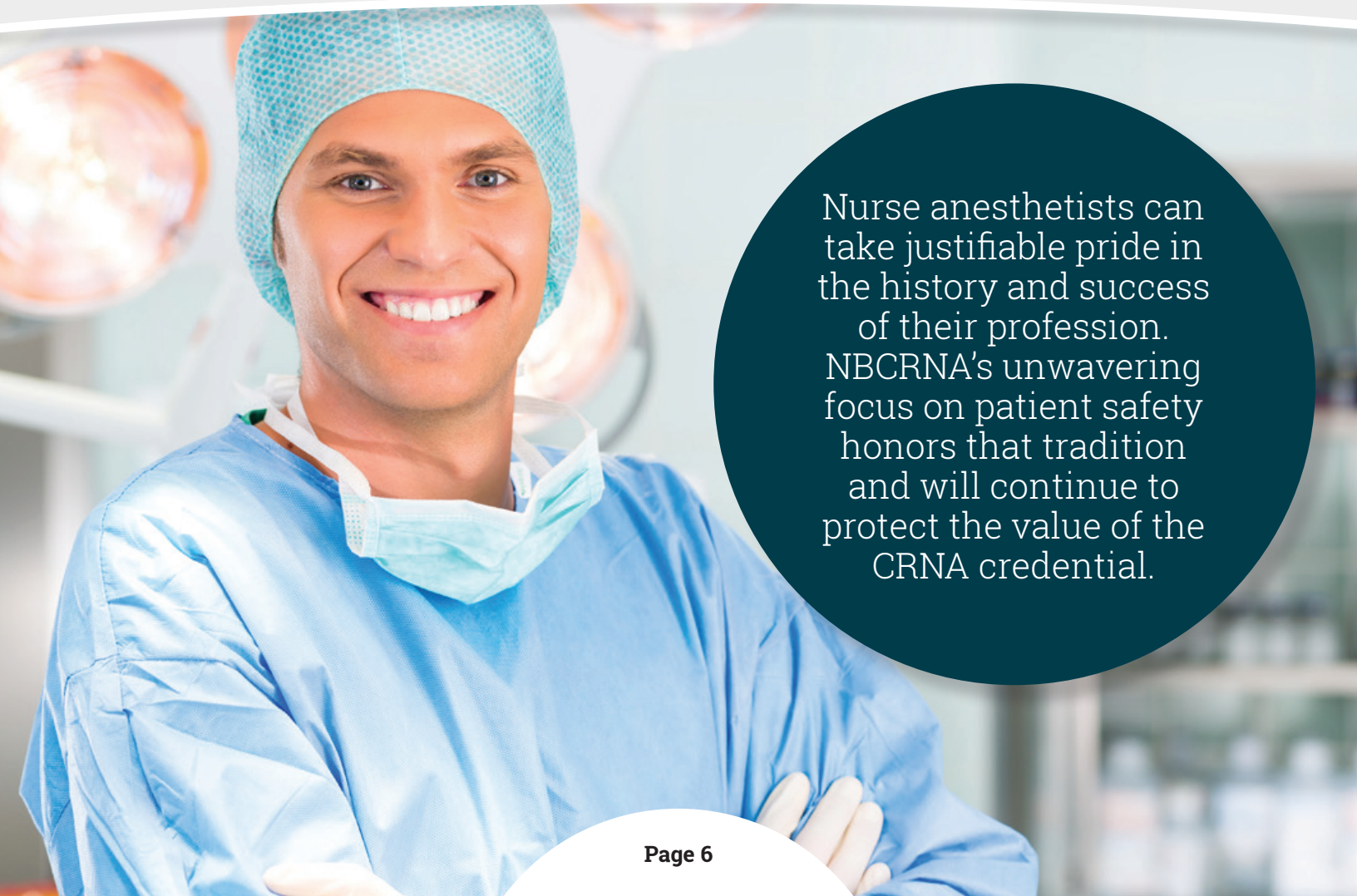
The NBCRNA is Committed to Patient Safety

The public perspective is aligned with and supports the key elements of NBCRNA's commitment to learning, mastering skills and being assessed at regular intervals. According to the executive summary report for the Healthcare Professionals survey* conducted by Harris Interactive on behalf of the NBCRNA:

91% of Americans indicated that it is important/very important that health care providers have passed an examination on their profession's specific knowledge.

89% of Americans indicated that it is important/very important that health care providers attend educational programs throughout their career to refresh their knowledge and learn about the latest scientific evidence and new technologies.

**May 2013*



Nurse anesthetists can take justifiable pride in the history and success of their profession. NBCRNA's unwavering focus on patient safety honors that tradition and will continue to protect the value of the CRNA credential.

Accreditation

Enhancing the Value of the Credential Through Nationally Accepted Standards

The credentialing programs of the NBCRNA are accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA) and the Accreditation Board for Specialty Nursing Certification, Inc. (ABSNC).

NCCA accreditation means that the NBCRNA credentialing programs meet the highest national voluntary standards for private certification. NCCA accreditation validates the credential against the accepted standards across all credentialed professions. The NBCRNA received its initial accreditation from the NCCA in June 1984.

ABSNC accreditation means that the NBCRNA credentialing programs meet the standards of the only accreditation program for nursing specialties. It promotes the highest quality of specialty nursing practice through the establishment of standards of professional specialty nursing certification. When the NBCRNA received its initial accreditation from the ABSNC in August 1992, it was one of the first national certification bodies to be recognized and approved by the ABSNC.

In 2017, the NCCA and ABSNC approved the reaccreditation of the NBCRNA certification program and the Continued Professional Certification (CPC) Program through July 2022. The NBCRNA's Nonsurgical Pain Management (NSPM-C) certification program was granted accreditation by the ABSNC in August 2017, and in 2018 was granted accreditation by the NCCA.

Together, NCCA and ABSNC accreditation provides a strong and widely accepted standard for the nurse anesthetist credential that has been institutionalized in many position descriptions as a practice requirement or as a standard for demonstrating equivalency. It has been recognized in state nurse practice acts and state rules and regulations.



Engage
The NBCRNA Podcast

Engage: The New NBCRNA Podcast

To further our educational outreach, the NBCRNA launched a podcast series to help inform CRNAs, SRNAs and the public about important topics and events related to the NBCRNA, nurse anesthesia practice and continuing education activities. Engage: The NBCRNA Podcast, offers a timely and concise platform for CRNAs to stay informed. Podcasts and multimedia content, including videos, can be accessed on the website's new multimedia page.

www.nbcrna.com/multimedia



Letter from the President

**Robert Hawkins, PhD, DNP, MS, MBA, CRNA
2017-2018 NBCRNA President**

This has been an exciting year as 2,448 new Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists were welcomed to our wonderful profession, along with more than 2,600 new students entering the nurse anesthesia programs. Each of us remembers the pride we felt as we first earned our CRNA credential. This esteemed credential enables us to work in myriad practice settings across the country. As we met other nurse anesthetists from around the world at the 2018 World Congress of Nurse Anesthetists in Budapest, we were reminded of the strides we have made in the U.S. with regard to our practice scope based on our strong credential, as compared with nurse anesthetists in nearly every other country. And our work on this continues.

Our focus this year was on value, relationships and (testing-materials) security. Several strategic initiatives were undertaken to address these key areas. As NBCRNA's Value Statement notes, the NBCRNA was created in recognition of the importance the nurse anesthetist profession places on patient safety. As such, our primary responsibility is to guard the well-being of the public by seeking to ensure that nurse anesthetists have the necessary knowledge and skills to practice safely and effectively. In so doing, we also protect the value of the CRNA credential. To further support the strength and value of the credential, the NBCRNA launched a data-focused initiative in FY 2018, led by a new Evaluation and Research Advisory Committee (ERAC). Under the committee's direction, an extensive CPC Assessment Research Study was initiated to evaluate various testing conditions which you will read more about in this publication.

The NBCRNA continues to promote lifelong learning. The CPC Program's Core Modules, for example, offer a way for CRNAs to stay informed about current literature and evidence-based knowledge. During 2018, with input from the American Association for Nurse Anesthetists (AANA) and its Continuing Education Committee, along with Core Module providers, and CRNAs who have taken the Core Modules, the Core Modules were incorporated as an essential component of the CPC Program beginning in 2020.

Upon earning the credential, the nation's 52,176 CRNAs dedicate themselves to lifelong learning, which ensures continued competence in the specialty. We should all be proud knowing that that the NBCRNA's initial certification and continued certification programs meet or exceed the expectations of patients and family members, the requirements of employers and the demands of regulatory authorities to verify that nurse anesthetists continue to be recognized as providing the safest and best anesthesia care possible.

We know that CRNAs are among the brightest, most dedicated, and most well-trained professionals in the health care field. Through our work, we seek to help CRNAs thrive and expand in every practice setting by further strengthening our credential through a program of lifelong learning.

**NBCRNA protects
the value of the CRNA
credential through our
commitment to ensure
that competency evolves
consistent with advances
in technology and the
increasing complexities
of patient care.**



A Message from the CEO

Karen Plaus, PhD, CRNA, FAAN, CAE
NBCRNA Chief Executive Officer

The important credentialing work of the NBCRNA continues every day throughout the year to ensure the Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA) credential continues to represent quality, accessibility and an unparalleled standard of care for our patients. In FY 2018, the NBCRNA was pleased to continue to support the nation's more than 52,000 Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists each day.

This year, the first 2-year Check-in window opened as the next step in the CPC Program. As part of the 2-year Check-in, CRNAs confirm the information in their NBCRNA record to ensure currency and accuracy. Of the more than 22,000 CRNAs due to check-in by the July 31, 2018 deadline, nearly 25% had changes to their record, which enables them to continue to be reached with important information regarding their credential. Program Directors and nurse anesthesia students were also further supported this year with the launch of the Student DualEnroll web portal, a joint project between the NBCRNA and the American Association for Nurse Anesthetists (AANA). DualEnroll allows nurse anesthesia programs to enroll students with AANA and NBCRNA at the same time, on one site and with one login to streamline the enrollment process.

Further supporting the profession is the continued subspecialty certification in Nonsurgical Pain Management (NCPM-C), which gained more new certificants this year than in the three years since its launch in 2014. Today, there are 41 NSPM-certified CRNAs. In 2018, the NSPM certification program was also granted accreditation by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA), in addition to its existing accreditation by the Accreditation Board for Specialty Nursing Certification, Inc. (ABSNC).

The NBCRNA staff works throughout the year helping CRNAs with their certification-related needs. In FY 2018, these included sending more than 5,223 state board of nursing verifications, as well as over 689 transcripts. In FY 2018, NBCRNA customer service staff received 5,909 total certificant calls and 6,676 emails. The NBCRNA staff also undertook the enormous task of certifying and recertifying nurse anesthetists, which included administering 7,243 total exams: 4,190 Self-Evaluation Examinations, 3,053 National Certification Examinations and 26 Nonsurgical Pain Management Examinations. In FY 2018, 96% of CRNAs due to check-in completed the process and 2,448 new CRNAs were tested and certified.

**Nurse anesthetists
have been providing
anesthesia care to
patients in the US for
more than 150 years.**

To improve access to the large array of information and resources available on the NBCRNA website, the site was completely redesigned in FY 2018, making key resources more accessible and adding new features and tools. This involved moving to a flexible and innovative platform, redesigning the navigation based on a complete content inventory and analysis, along with utilizing a more effective search tool, and employing advanced features for the best user experience. Building on the move towards enhanced communications, the NBCRNA expanded our social media presence, and offered new ways to connect and learn, with new educational and informational videos and the launch of our podcast series.

Carrying out our mission while constantly improving how we do business is only possible with the hard work of the NBCRNA staff. We also greatly benefitted from the leadership and vision of an extraordinary Board of Directors, led by Dr. Bob Hawkins, who guided the organization as we launched our research initiative, along with the CPC Program, which will solidly position credentialing for the future. The NBCRNA staff looks forward to working with Dr. Mary Wojnakowski and the entire 2018 - 2019 Board of Directors as we continue our credentialing plans to support our extraordinary profession.

NBCRNA FY 2018 Board of Directors



PRESIDENT

Bob Hawkins, PhD, DNP, MS, MBA, CRNA

Bob is a nurse anesthesia educator and has served in various roles including clinical instructor, assistant program director and program director. He is a graduate of the Medical University of South Carolina (BSN), Webster University (MBA), Georgetown University (MS) and Rush University (DNP and PhD).



VICE-PRESIDENT

Terry Wicks, DNP, MHS, CRNA

Terry is currently a staff nurse anesthetist at Catawba Valley Medical Center in Hickory, NC. In addition, Terry is a graduate of the DNP Program at the University of Iowa. Prior to leaving the army in 1992, Terry served as Assistant Program Director at the clinical site for US Army's Course for Nurse Anesthetists at Fitzsimons Army Medical Center in Aurora, Colorado. Terry has also served as President of the Hawaii Association of Nurse Anesthetists, as well as president of the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists 2006-2007.



SECRETARY-TREASURER

Mary Wojnakowski, PhD, CRNA

Mary holds a PhD in nursing from the University of Pittsburgh and is an actively practicing anesthesia provider, educator, and researcher. She provides anesthesia services at Maricopa Medical Center, a Level 1 trauma hospital and regional burn center, and Mayo Clinic Hospital. Mary is also on faculty at Midwestern University Arizona College of Osteopathic Medicine in Glendale, Arizona. Mary actively participates in community and professional organizations at the state and national levels and has published in the *AANA Journal*, *OR Nursing*, and the *Journal of PeriAnesthesia Nursing*.

NBCRNA FY 2018 Board of Directors

DIRECTORS



Pamela Chambers, MSN, EJD, CRNA

Pamela graduated from the U.S. Army Graduate program in anesthesia nursing in 2000 with an MSN degree. Pamela currently works in a private practice group outside of Dallas. She has practiced in five of the seven AANA regions during her career, and lectures on topics related to law, nursing jurisprudence, and provides expert witness consultation and review on nurse anesthesia standard of care.



David Coffman, DO, PhD

David is the surgeon member of the NBCRNA board and is an Associate Professor of Medicine and Surgery at Touro University College of Osteopathic Medicine-California (TUCOM), Vallejo, CA. He is also a trauma surgeon with the Acute Care Surgicalist Management Group, Sacramento, CA. He obtained his DO from Des Moines University School of Medicine, did his fellowship in Trauma/Surgical Critical Care at Yale University, and obtained his PhD in Clinical Psychology from Capella University.



Kevin Driscoll, DNP, MSN, CRNA

Kevin is a staff nurse anesthetist at the National Institute of Health, Clinical Center. Previously, he was at Johns Hopkins Hospital where he helped lead the first Collaborative Unit Based Safety Program in the Department of Surgery, as well as co-chaired a Johns Hopkins Medicine Clinical Community. He recently achieved his DNP through Yale University.



Stephen Klinkhammer, DNP, CRNA, APNP, APN, CHSE

Stephen received his Master of Nurse Anesthesia from the Mayo School of Health Sciences, Rochester, MN, and his Doctor of Nursing Practice from Rush University. He has provided anesthesia care in multiple settings including military, government academic, and private practice. Stephen was on the faculty of the Nurse Anesthesia Program at Rosalind Franklin University School of Medicine and Science, is a nationally Certified Healthcare Simulation Educator, and lectures on a regional and national level on various anesthesia-related topics.

NBCRNA FY 2018 Board of Directors

DIRECTORS



Cormac O'Sullivan, PhD, CRNA, ARNP

Cormac is an Associate Clinical Professor and the director of the DNP program in Nurse Anesthesia at the University of Iowa. He received his PhD in Health Services with a focus on Health Economics from the University of Iowa. He has worked as a CRNA at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics for 20 years. His areas of research interest focus on quality and safety in surgical patients, and provider and patient preferences for health care services.



Dennis Spence, PhD, MS, CRNA

Dennis practices anesthesia, is a clinical researcher, nurse anesthesia educator, and Institutional Review Board Chair at an academic medical center in Southern California. He is a graduate of Rush University, Georgetown University/Navy Nurse Corps Anesthesia Program, and the University of Texas Health Science Center San Antonio. He is an adjunct Associate Professor at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences Graduate School of Nursing. Dennis also is a journal reviewer for the *AANA Journal* and contributing editor for *Anesthesia Abstracts*.



Edward J. Susank

Ed is the public member of the NBCRNA Board. Ed spent 25 years as a Principal with William M. Mercer, Inc., a benefits and human resource consulting firm, and is a public member on the American Board of Imaging Informatics and the National Center for Interprofessional Practice and Education at the University of Minnesota. He also served on the governing board of Downey (CA) Regional Medical Center for 13 years and chaired their board for four years. He additionally served on boards or committees for the Hospital Council of Southern California, the California Hospital Association, the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education, the American Board of Medical Specialties, the Federations of State Boards of Physical Therapy, AARP, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the Catholic Diocese of Arlington.



Mark H. Zahniser, MD

Mark serves as the anesthesiologist representative on the NBCRNA board. He received his medical degree from the Toledo medical school (formerly MCO) in 1990 and currently works in the Department of Cardiac Anesthesia at Cleveland Clinic. He is also Assistant Professor of Anesthesiology at the Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine. Mark's primary training in anesthesiology and fellowship in critical care both occurred at the Cleveland Clinic.

NBCRNA FY 2018 Board of Directors



EMERGING LEADER FELLOWS

Christopher Gill, MS, CRNA

Chris is a Clinical Coordinator/Staff CRNA at Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston. He is a graduate of the Wayne State University Nurse Anesthesia Program in Detroit, where he obtained his Master of Science in Anesthesia. His professional interests include pharmacology and health policy.



Rishelle Zhou, MS, LLB, CRNA

Rishelle has been a Staff CRNA and Clinical Instructor at the VA Portland Health Care System in Portland, OR since 2014. She earned a BSN from the Oregon Health and Science University in 2008 and her master's degree from Kaiser Permanente School of Anesthesia/California State University Fullerton.

Contributions/Sponsorships

In FY 2018, the NBCRNA was pleased to have made the following contributions in support of the nurse anesthesia profession:

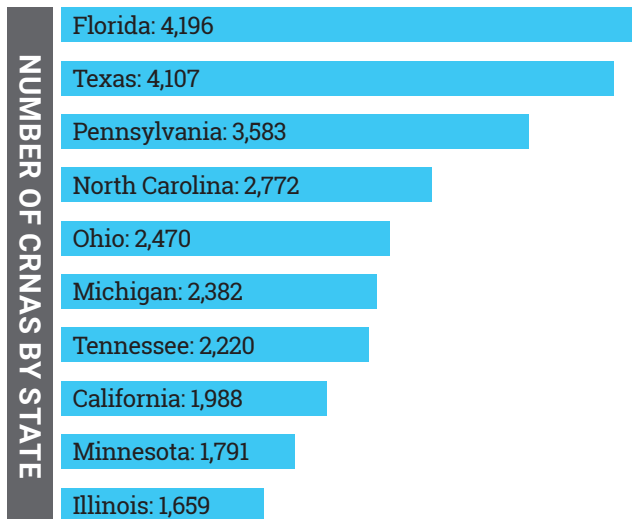
AANA Foundation Student Emergency Fund	\$50,000
Diversity in Nurse Anesthesia Mentorship Program	\$50,000
AANA Annual Congress Student Luncheon	\$25,000
Institute for Credentialing Excellence (ICE)	\$10,000
American Board of Nursing Specialties (ABNS)	\$6,000
World Congress of Nurse Anesthetists Program Administration Luncheon	\$3,200

By the Numbers

FY 2018: September 1, 2017 – August 31, 2018

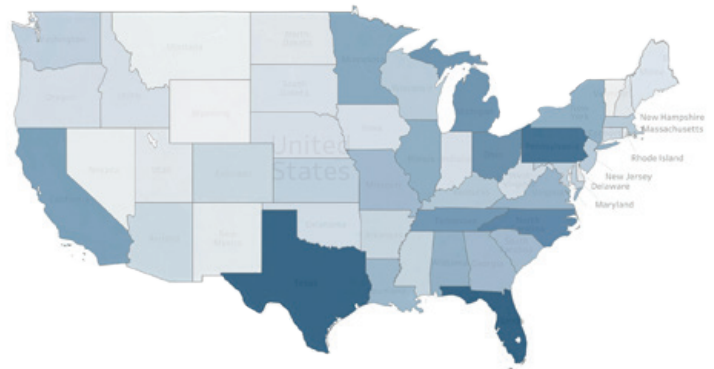
(as of August 31, 2018:)

Number of CRNAs - Top Ten States



CRNAs by State

There are CRNAs in all **50** states and in **7** provinces.

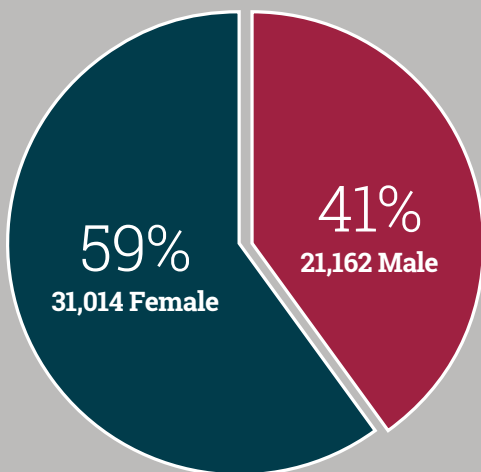


*Darker areas indicate greater CRNA population.

CRNAs FY 2018

52,176 CRNAs

CRNA Demographics



CRNA Overall Average Age

47.5 years

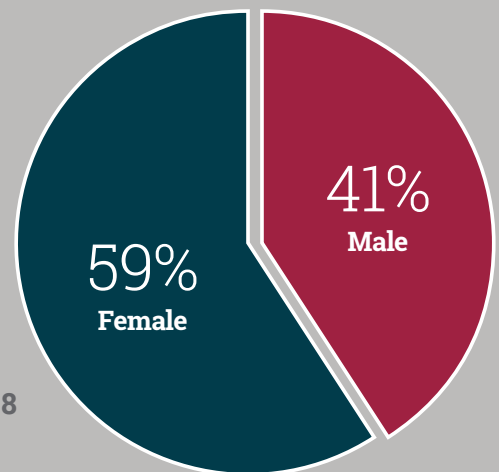
Average Age
at Start of Career

32.7 years

Number of Newly Enrolled
Students During Fiscal Year 2018

2,602*

Student Demographics



*Partial-year; enrollment numbers for this period will increase as submissions are reported from Nurse Anesthesia Educator Programs.

Elections



Pictured here from left: Susan McMullan, PhD, MSN, CRNA; Jessica Kubisch, DNAP, MS, CRNA; Terry Wicks, DNP, MHS, CRNA; Mary Wojnakowski, PhD, CRNA; Lori Anderson, DNP, MSN, MSN, CRNA.

In July 2018, incoming NBCRNA (FY 2019): President Mary Wojnakowski, PhD, CRNA, and Vice President Terry Wicks, DNP, MHS, CRNA, greeted incoming (FY 2019) NBCRNA Board members and Emerging Leader Fellow at the New Board Orientation.

The NBCRNA Board of Directors is composed of nurse anesthetists who hold the NBCRNA-issued credential and are actively engaged in clinical practice or in research, teaching or administration at a nurse anesthesia educational program; a board-certified surgeon and a board-certified anesthesiologist, both of whom have a current working relationship with nurse anesthetists; and a representative of the public at large.

During FY 2018, the NBCRNA held elections for open positions on the NBCRNA Board of Directors. All applications were reviewed by both the AANA and NBCRNA boards, followed by interviews with representatives from the NBCRNA board and the AANA board liaison. New Board Directors Lori Anderson, DNP, MSN, MSN, CRNA, and Susan McMullan, PhD, MSN, CRNA, and Emerging Leader Fellow Jessica Kubisch, MSNA, CRNA, were announced in early March, with terms beginning in August 2018.

The incoming Executive Committee, who began their FY 2019 terms in August 2018, include President Mary Wojnakowski, PhD, CRNA, Vice President Terry Wicks, DNP, MHS, CRNA, and Secretary/Treasurer Kevin Driscoll, DNP, MSN, CRNA.

The NBCRNA initial and continuous certification programs meet or exceed the expectations of patients, employers and regulators strengthening the Credential and creating numerous opportunities for CRNAs.

Certification: Advancing the Profession

Certification

Certifying new nurse anesthetists speaks to the heart of the NBCRNA mission to promote patient safety through credentialing programs that support lifelong learning. Each year, candidates in the 121 nurse anesthesia programs throughout the United States sit for the National Certification Exam (NCE) to become certified registered nurse anesthetists (CRNAs). A list of the newly certified CRNAs by state of residence is published monthly on the NBCRNA website.

After reviewing the results of the 2017 standard setting study, it was determined that the passing standard would remain unchanged. The full press release, along with more information on NCE and SEE performance and transcript data for FY 2018, are available on the NBCRNA website.

NSPM Accreditation

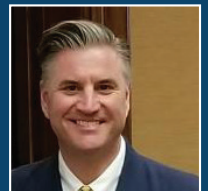
In June 2018, the NBCRNA's Nonsurgical Pain Management (NSPM-C) credential program was granted accreditation by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA). This followed an extensive self-study, demonstration of compliance with all standards for accreditation, and the provision of additional materials requested by the agency. The NSPM program is also accredited by the Accreditation Board for Specialty Nursing Certification (ABSNC).



What does the CRNA credential mean to you?

"Throughout my career the CRNA credential represents advocacy: advocacy for our patients, for our scope of practice, and for the education of the next generation of CRNAs."

Thomas Pallaria, DNP, CRNA
Program Director
Rutgers University Nurse
Anesthesia Program



More information
on certification
can be found at:

nbcrna.com/certification

Preparing for the Profession

National Certification Examination (NCE)

The NBCRNA administers the National Certification Examination (NCE) to measure the knowledge, skills and abilities necessary for entry-level nurse anesthesia practitioners. The NCE is a variable-length computerized test for entry into nurse anesthesia practice.

September 1, 2017 – August 31, 2018

3,053 NCE Exams Administered

84.3% First-time Pass Rate

NCE Exam Survey

NBCRNA strives to uphold our customer service commitment to excellence.

99.5% of NCE candidates agreed or strongly agreed that the NCE application process was easy

98% of NCE candidates agreed or strongly agreed that NBCRNA responded to their questions in a timely manner

99% of NCE candidates were satisfied with the NBCRNA

Self-Evaluation Examination (SEE)

The NBCRNA administers the variable-length computerized Self Evaluation Examination (SEE) to nurse anesthesia students. The SEE provides information to students about their progress in the nurse anesthesia educational program and to program administrators on how well their programs are preparing students with the knowledge needed for anesthesia practice. It also prepares students for the National Certification Examination (NCE).

September 1, 2017 – August 31, 2018

4,190 SEE Exams Administered

SEE Predictability

The 2017 Report on Preliminary Evaluation of the Reconfigured Self-Evaluation Examination showed that there is a moderately high, positive correlation between SEE scores and eventual performance on the first NCE attempt.

SEE Testing Volume

Testing volume for the FY 2018 SEE increased by 8.9% over the previous fiscal year.

NSPM

Since inception in 2015, through July 31, 2018, 41 CRNAs now hold the Nonsurgical Pain Management (NSPM-C) credential, 50% of which were achieved in FY 2018. This NBCRNA subspecialty certification for nurse anesthetists measures the knowledge, skills and abilities of CRNAs for practice in the field of nonsurgical pain management. With a total of 26 exam attempts during FY 2018, 21 CRNAs have passed with an 82% pass rate. Application and testing windows are open at various times each year and are listed on the NBCRNA website.

www.nbcrna.com/nspm

Newly Certified CRNAs

2,448

NCE And SEE Exam Information

3,053

NCE Exams Administered

4,190

of SEE Exams Administered

CPC PROGRAM

CONTINUED PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION

CPC Program – 2-year Check-in

The Continued Professional Certification (CPC) Program entered its third year, focusing on lifelong learning. This year, the NBCRNA added more educational resources to help CRNAs learn about and navigate the program. NBCRNA also continued our speaker program, providing live CPC Program presentations at 34 state, vendor and facility meetings throughout the year.

The first 2-year Check-in opened in April 2018 for those that initially certified or recertified by July 31, 2016. Like the timing in the former “recertification” program, the CPC Program includes a check-in at each two-year mark. The CPC Program is based on an 8-year period comprised of two 4-year cycles. The 2-Year Check-in is the mid-point requirement in the 4-year cycle. To promote awareness and compliance of this first 2-year Check-in, a full complement of educational materials was developed including videos, podcast, an updated CPC Program calculator, toolkit page for state associations, a downloadable deadline chart, FAQs, and more.

www.nbcrna.com/2YCI

2-year Check-in Survey

97%

of CRNAs agreed that the 2-year Check-in process was simple

96%

of CRNAs due to check-in completed the process



New NBCRNA Videos

Two 2-year Check-in videos were posted to the NBCRNA YouTube channel. From introductions to new NBCRNA board members to in-depth coverage of the CPC Program, the NBCRNA YouTube Channel offers a variety of engaging videos for CRNAs, SRNAs and the public.

www.youtube.com/TheNBCRNA



Tell us about your 2-year check-in experience

“In between speaker sessions at #MYA2018, I was able to complete my 2-year Check-in at the NBCRNA booth. They had other CRNAs on hand to help me at multiple computer/laptop stations. It was short and sweet! Thank you NBCRNA!”

Gena Burnett, MSN, CRNA
Staff CRNA/NCANA
District Director
Regional Anesthesia, PLLC



CPC Program Outreach

In FY 2018, the NBCRNA continued its initiative to provide information on the CPC Program to CRNAs across the country. The CPC Program outreach delivered real-time information to more than 5,000 CRNAs through live speakers and webinars in 27 states at more than 34 state, vendor and facility meetings across the country. Live webinars also allowed for presentations to smaller groups. Additional outreach involved informative articles for state associations and in AANA publications, social media information dissemination, videos, podcasts and more.

www.nbcrna.com/cpc

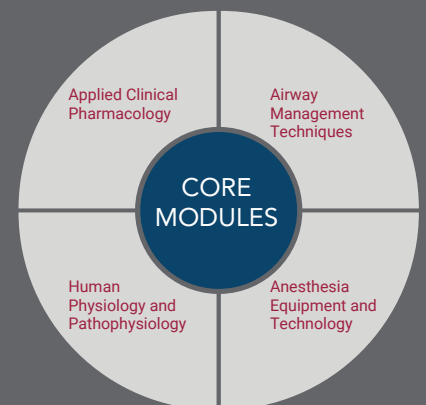


**5,045 CRNAs across the United States were reached through in-person presentations, webinars or were provided resources during FY 2018.*

The Core Module Component: Required Beginning 2020

Core Modules are an integral component of the CPC Program and provide a vehicle for CRNAs to stay informed about findings from current literature and evidence-based knowledge that effects, influences and enhances clinical practice and expertise. In the first 4-year CPC Program cycle, the Core Modules are optional, but count as Class A credit. Following a thorough review of performance and satisfaction data from vendors, as well as from CRNAs, and a recommendation from the AANA and its Continuing Education Committee, it was determined that the Core Modules will become a required component of each 4-year CPC Program cycle beginning on January 1, 2020.

www.nbcrna.com/vendors



CPC PROGRAM

CONTINUED PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION



Practice Assessment: CPCA Practice II Launched

The NBCRNA launched the second online, interactive practice assessment, CPCA Practice II, in FY 2018. CPCA Practice I and II are designed to promote lifelong learning while providing a tool to help assess knowledge and identify knowledge gaps.

Each assessment takes the CRNA through 40 questions covering the four* core domains of anesthesia practice and provides Class A credits. After completing each CPCA Practice version, CRNAs receive personalized feedback, including a standard score report with results by domain, percentage correct, and correct answer rationales.

More information on the CPCA Practice can be found on the NBCRNA website.

**Airway Management; Applied Clinical Pharmacology; Human Physiology and Pathophysiology; and Anesthesia Equipment and Technology.*

www.nbcrna.com/cpcapractice

A photograph of a nurse anesthetist in the foreground, wearing a blue surgical cap and mask, looking towards the camera with a slight smile. In the background, other medical professionals in blue scrubs and caps are working in an operating room.

The nurse anesthesia profession established a rigorous national entry process earlier than most nursing, allied health, and medical professions, and became an early adopter of computerized adaptive testing technology, recognizing that examination and certification help protect the public.

NBCRNA: Sharing Expertise

Testing and Credentialing Community Involvement

Recognized as the leader in advanced practice nurse credentialing, the NBCRNA regularly seeks opportunities to share expertise in credentialing and interact with like organizations and professionals from around the world.



World Congress of Nurse Anesthetists

The NBCRNA was pleased to have two presentations accepted at the 2018 World Congress of Nurse Anesthetists (WCNA) in Budapest, Hungary. NBCRNA President Bob Hawkins, PhD, DNP, MS, MBA, CRNA, and Vice-President Terry Wicks, DNP, CRNA, MHS, presented on "Assessment: What Does the Literature Say and Practical Applications" and "How to Assess Competency." The NBCRNA was also represented by a staffed booth, providing the opportunity to meet and network with nurse anesthetists from around the world.



Education Research and Measurement

NBCRNA Director of Psychometrics Hao Song, PhD, attended one of the largest gatherings of scholars in the field of education research and measurement at the American Educational Research Association (AERA)/National Council on Measurement in Education (NCME) Conference in New York. Dr. Song co-presented, "Impact of Item Duplicates, Cueing and Repeat-Test Masking on Computerized Adaptive Testing." The study used simulation data to evaluate whether and how certain items and repeat tests affect ability estimation and item exposure in computerized adaptive testing operations, especially in a context of continuous administration.

Certification Network Group

The NBCRNA was pleased to participate on a panel for the Certification Networking Group (CNG), whose purpose is to provide meaningful gatherings for individuals and organizations interested in certification. NBCRNA CEO Karen Plaus, PhD, CRNA, FAAN, CAE, participated on a panel titled, "Opportunity in Adversity: How Challenges in Healthcare Certification Fuel Innovation." As a leader in advanced practice nurse credentialing, the NBCRNA is continually looking at innovative and effective advances impacting the credentialing field and sharing information and expertise with other credentialing organizations.

Assembly of School Faculty

The NBCRNA provided two presentations at the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists 2018 Assembly of School Faculty (ASF). NBCRNA Board Secretary-Treasurer Mary Wojnakowski, PhD, CRNA, and NBCRNA Chief Credentialing Officer John Preston, DNSc, CRNA, FNAP, APN, presented on the National Certification Exam (NCE) Standard Setting.



Also presenting was NBCRNA President Bob Hawkins, PhD, DNP, MS, MBA, CRNA, whose presentation, "From SEE to NCE: Is It Predictive?" provided a unique look at the possible predictive nature of the SEE to the NCE.

The ASF brings together educators in the field of nurse anesthesia to share information, trends and resources.

Supporting Our Colleagues



Diversity in Nurse Anesthesia Mentorship Program

The NBCRNA is a proud sponsor of the Diversity in Nurse Anesthesia Mentorship Program (DNAMP), whose mission is to inform, empower and mentor underserved diverse populations with information to prepare for a successful career in nurse anesthesia.

The NBCRNA has been a proud sponsor of the DNAMP for the last four years. The NBCRNA's most recent support was in the form of a direct contribution

of \$50,000, with a match of up to an additional \$25,000 for all contributions received by the Diversity in Nurse Anesthesia Mentorship Program (DNAMP).



Support for AANA Foundation Student Emergency Grant Program

After devastating hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria, along with California wildfires and other natural disasters left the island of Puerto Rico with unprecedented devastation, the NBCRNA donated \$50,000 to the AANA Foundation's Student Emergency Grant Program, as well as committed to a \$50,000 matching gift initiative, matching CRNA donations at a rate of \$1 for \$1, and student donations \$10 to \$1. This contribution assisted student nurse anesthetists enrolled in the University of Puerto Rico's Nurse Anesthesia Program during the time of the hurricane.

"I am writing to express my greatest and most sincere gratitude for awarding me the generous Emergency Educational Grant. This grant has helped by relieving some of the financial burdens in funding college. I have a husband and two young children who were all impacted by Hurricane Irma. I will forever remember this grant... I extend my most bona fide appreciation and thankfulness..."

Catherine A. Pallas, RN, BSN, CCRN, SRNA



NBCRNA Presentation at DNAMP Workshop

NBCRNA President Bob Hawkins, PhD, DNP, MS, MBA, CRNA, presented on behalf of the NBCRNA at the Diversity CRNA Information Session & Airway Simulation Lab Workshop at Emory University in April 2018 hosted by the Diversity in Nurse Anesthesia Mentorship Program (DNAMP).



" Thank you for committing financial resources towards advancing the future of the Nurse Anesthesia profession and being responsive to the changing demographics of the nation as well as the anemic number of diverse Nurse Anesthetists across the country. BRAVO!!!"

Wallena Gould, EdD, CRNA, FAAN
Founder and CEO, Diversity in Nurse Anesthesia Mentorship Program

NBCRNA Collaboration: NBCRNA and AANA Working Together



Pictured here from left: Jessica Kubisch, DNAP, MS, CRNA; Lori Anderson, DNP, MSN, MSN, CRNA; NBCRNA CEO Karen Plaus, PhD, CRNA, FAAN, CAE; AANA CEO Randy Moore, DNP, MBA, CRNA, MAJ(ret); Susan McMullan, PhD, MSN, CRNA; NBCRNA Vice President Terry Wicks, DNP, CRNA, MHS; AANA incoming President Garry Brydges, DNP, MBA, MSN, CRNA, ACNP-BC; and NBCRNA Secretary-Treasurer Mary Wojnakowski, PhD, CRNA.



Joint Presidents Messages

The NBCRNA and AANA continued the initiative of publishing regular, jointly written articles on updates and topics of shared interest. Published in the bimonthly *AANA NewsBulletin*, the articles illustrate the communications and collaboration on the part of both organizations.

Evaluating How to Assess Knowledge and Competence Over Time

The NBCRNA continued its collaboration with the AANA, working together on issues and initiatives to ensure a strong future for CRNAs and the credential. This included communications and information exchanges related to the Continued Professional Certification (CPC) Program, specifically the CPC Assessment component.

With the AANA's valued feedback, the NBCRNA also continued its commitment to evaluating how to assess knowledge and competence over time. A Joint Presidents Message was published in the July 2018 issue of the *AANA NewsBulletin* on the topic of alternatives as they relate to the CPC Program's Assessment. In FY 2018, the NBCRNA launched an extensive CPC Assessment Research Study to evaluate various testing conditions. Read more about the study later in this publication.

NBCRNA: Looking Ahead


CPC Assessment Research Study

As a leader in the field of advanced practice nurse credentialing, the NBCRNA continues to evaluate how to assess knowledge and competence over time in the CRNA practice, taking advantage of new information and applicable technologies. The move towards an evidence-based Continued Professional Certification (CPC) Program recognizes that technology and assessment methods evolve over time.

As part of that exploration, the NBCRNA created an Evaluation and Research Advisory Committee (ERAC). The ERAC was established to assist the NBCRNA board in providing oversight for project development and design, ongoing analysis, outcomes and reports related to the NBCRNA's credentialing programs.

In FY 2018, the Committee launched an innovative research study to examine the impact of various testing conditions with a study goal to evaluate fair and reliable options for administration of the Continued Professional Certification Assessment (CPCA). The CPC Program is designed to be modified based on evidence, which prompted this research using different testing conditions for this first performance standard assessment. More than 1,500 randomly selected and assigned volunteers will participate in the CPC Assessment Research Study to determine how different conditions affect assessment outcomes and the participant experience.

The NBCRNA will continue to keep the CRNA community informed as it explores more longitudinal and formative approaches, as well as innovative assessments based in emerging technology.



More information on
the CPC Assessment
Research Study
can be found at

nbcma.com/betaresearch

Our Volunteers: Committees, Subcommittees and Panels



The NBCRNA greatly appreciates the contributions of its many volunteers.

Listed are volunteers who have served on NBCRNA Committees, Subcommittees, or Panels at some time during FY 2018. (Not listed are Standing Committees, which are staff by members of the Board of Directors).

CPC Core Module Recognition Panels

Airway Management Techniques

Chair: Kenneth Wofford, PhD, CRNA,
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Jennifer Martin, DNP, CRNA
Virginia C. Muckler, DNP, MSN, CRNA

Applied Clinical Pharmacology

Chair: John Nagelhout, PhD, CRNA
Carrie Bowman Dalley, PhD, CRNA
Michael Boytim, MN, CRNA, EdD
Rachel Davis, DNP, CRNA
Lisa Maw, CRNA, DNP
Ken Radford, PhD, CRNA, NC, USN

Equipment and Technology

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John Borza, DNP, MBA, CRNA
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Frank Titch, DNP, CRNA
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Chair: John Maye, PhD, CRNA
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Our Volunteers: Committees, Subcommittees and Panels

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Chair SEE: Eric Bopp, PhD, CRNA
Chair NCE: Mike Dosch, PhD, CRNA
Chair CPCA and CPC Practice: Mary Anne Krogh, PhD, APRN, CRNA, FAAN
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Robyn Ward, PhD, MS, CRNA
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Kenneth Wofford, PhD, CRNA
Charles Vacchiano, PhD, CRNA, FAAN
AANA Appointee and Chair CPC: John Maye, PhD, CRNA
Mary Wojnakowski, PhD, CRNA
Dennis Spence, PhD, CRNA

CPCA Practice Panel

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Malyher Mian, MSN, CRNA
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April Phillips, MS, CRNA
Eleanor Rawson, DNAP, MS, CRNA

CPCA Item-Writing Oversight Sub-Committee

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Nancy Schultz, DNP, CRNA
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Robyn Ward, MS, CRNA

CPCA Item-Writing Panel

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