

CRNAs AND PRESCRIPTIVE AUTHORITY

For an APRN to prescribe in Kentucky, the APRN must have a CAPA-NS for legend drugs and a CAPA-CS for controlled substances. After prescribing legend drugs for four years with a collaborative agreement (CAPA-NS), an APRN may be exempt from the CAPA-NS requirement. A Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA) is an APRN. KRS 314.042(11) states: “Nothing in this chapter shall be construed as requiring an advanced practice registered nurse designated by the board as a certified registered nurse anesthetist to enter into a collaborative agreement with a physician, pursuant to this chapter or any other provision of law, in order to deliver anesthesia care.”

Anesthesia care is defined as “the art and science of rendering a patient insensible to pain by the administration of anesthetic agents and related drugs and procedures.” *Scope of Nurse Anesthesia Practice, American Association of Nurse Anesthetists, 2013, page 1.* Anesthesia care is within the scope of practice of a nurse anesthetist. Pursuant to KRS 314.042(11), a nurse anesthetist does not need a CAPA-NS or a CAPA-CS to deliver anesthesia care.

Also within the scope of practice of a nurse anesthetist is the “management of acute and chronic pain through the performance of selected diagnostic and therapeutic blocks or other forms of pain management”. *Ibid.* Although within the scope of practice of a nurse anesthetist, pain management is not anesthesia care. Therefore, a nurse anesthetist would need a CAPA-NS or a CAPA-CS to engage in pain management.

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