

## 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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