

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.

State of Arkansas
93rd General Assembly
Regular Session, 2021

A Bill

SENATE BILL 199

By: Senator Bledsoe

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND THE DEFINITION OF "PRACTICE OF
CERTIFIED REGISTERED NURSE ANESTHESIA" BY REMOVING
SUPERVISION REQUIREMENTS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO AMEND THE DEFINITION OF "PRACTICE OF
CERTIFIED REGISTERED NURSE ANESTHESIA" BY
REMOVING SUPERVISION REQUIREMENTS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 17-87-102(7), concerning the definition of "practice of certified registered nurse anesthesia" regarding the practice of nursing, is amended to read as follows:

(7)(A) "Practice of certified registered nurse anesthesia" means the performance for compensation of advanced nursing practices by a certified registered nurse anesthetist that are relevant to the administration of anesthetics under the supervision of, but not necessarily in the presence of, a licensed physician, licensed dentist, or other person lawfully entitled to order anesthesia.

(B) A certified registered nurse anesthetist may order nurses, within his or her scope of practice, to administer drugs preoperatively and postoperatively in connection with an anesthetic or other operative or invasive procedure, or both, that will be or has been provided.

(C)(i) In a critical access hospital, a certified registered nurse anesthetist may administer anesthetics under the supervision of or in consultation with a licensed physician, licensed dentist, or other



person lawfully entitled to order anesthesia, in accordance with the bylaws and policies of the facility in which the certified registered nurse anesthetist is practicing.

(ii) The critical access hospital shall disclose the model of supervision or consultation upon request of the patient.

(D) As used in this subdivision (7):

(i)(a) "Consultation" means an agreement between a licensed physician, licensed dentist, or other person lawfully entitled to order anesthesia performing the procedure or directly involved with the procedure and the certified registered nurse anesthetist working jointly toward a common goal of providing services for the same patient.

(b) "Consultation" involves the joint formulation, discussion, and agreement of the anesthesia plan by both parties.

(c) In "consultation", the consulting party shall remain physically present throughout the duration of the anesthetic, the name of the consulting party shall be documented in the case record, and the consulting party shall also sign the anesthesia record;

(ii) "Critical access hospital" means the same as in Title 7, Division 5, Rule 10;

(iii) "Immediately available" means the supervising or consulting physician is in a physical proximity that allows the physician to re-establish direct contact with the patient to meet medical needs and any urgent or emergent clinical problems;

(iv) "Physically present" means the supervising or consulting physician remains immediately available and personally and continuously available within the same healthcare institution or office; and

(v)(a) "Supervision" means overseeing of the administration and monitoring of an anesthetic by a licensed physician, licensed dentist, or other person lawfully entitled to order anesthesia.

(b) "Supervision" means that the licensed physician, licensed dentist, or other person lawfully entitled to order anesthesia shall remain physically present during the delivery of the anesthetic and immediately available to manage anesthesia-related complications or emergencies and assure the provision of indicated post-anesthesia care;